Message from the Director

What a whirlwind the past couple of days have been! Lots of planning going on in the office around Recyclemania and Earth Day. I hope that everyone will be able to go to one or two events over the next few months and join our community of sustainability on campus. You can see the line up of events on page 13, but I wanted to highlight a couple of activities. On Feb 26, our Recycling Chair Ting Zhao will host a program at 8 pm in the Colonial Quad penthouse turning jeans into handbags. So bring an old pair of denims and walk out with a new purse! Speaking of handbags, RA Yvette Boafo is organizing a collection of gently used purses for Handbags for Hope. Read more about this organization and how to donate on page 2.

The UAlbany Students for Sustainability group has been quite active and will help host a movie night on March 4th at 7:30 pm in LC2. The group will also be selling items for their annual Green Gram fundraiser later in the spring.

Mark these dates: April 18th for our annual Earth and Wellness Day and April 20 for the Earth Day Food and Arts Festival. The Earth and Wellness event will take place in the Campus Center between 11 am and 2 pm, featuring the health zone, a clothing exchange and this year the therapy dogs will make an appearance. On April 20th, Res Life will host a new tradition: the Earth Day Food and Arts Festival from 1 to 5 pm at Liberty Terrace. Lots of activities and the attempt to build a giant structure from our recycled cardboard. Will we be able to beat the college record???

Two green related speakers will also be on campus this spring. The Upstate NY Green Building Council is sponsoring Stephen Beck, Chief Sustainability Officer at Le Chase Construction on March 12th at 5:30 pm in Fine Arts room 114. Greg Pahl, the author of Power from The People, will tell us how to organize, finance and launch local energy projects. His presentation is slated for April 8 at 7:30 pm in Earth Science 147.

And with the warm weather coming, our bulletin is being “interrupted” by a special edition of the Bikeable UAlbany newsletter. Think Spring!!!
Campus Events

Recyclemania

Recyclemania is in full swing and so far we have recorded over 50,000 pounds of recyclables. Follow us on line to track our progress through the end of the contest on March 30th at: http://www.albany.edu/gogreen/4.recyclemania.shtml.

There are several programs running to support the concept of recycling and waste reduction over the next couple of months.

Jeans Makeover—Learn how to take an old pair of jeans and turn it into a handbag! **February 26 at 8 pm** in the Colonial Quad Penthouse. All participants will be eligible for a door prize!!

Movie Night—Come see the movie *Bag It* and learn how to reduce waste. This takes place on **March 4th at 7:30 pm in LC 2**. As with the jean program, all participants will be eligible for a door prize!

Caught Green Handed—The Green Scene team will be canvasing the campus looking for people recycling or reducing waste by either using a reusable bag, refillable mug or double sided printing. Those “caught” will receive a small prize and be entered into a raffle for a Nook HD.

Plus look for: bin shoots, the Green Scene team collecting recyclables at the men’s home basketball games and around campus, and a program on making drink holders out of reusable materials.

Composting Update

We’ve started our pilot composting project on Indian Quad. All food waste is separated by UADS staff and put into special containers. Empire Zero, a local organic waste hauling company, brings the material to the new composting facility in Schenectady County. This facility is run by the Soil and Water Conservation District. Since January 30th, we’ve composted over 14,000 pounds for food waste from the landfill!

Handbags for Hope Collection

This nonprofit organization delivers donated handbags to domestic violence shelters for women and they pack these bags with necessities such as hand sanitizers, deodorants and toothbrushes. The collection will take place until the beginning of March and boxes are located throughout the campus or can be dropped off at our office in University Hall 212.
Campus Events (con’t)

Jorgen Randers Presentation

On Wednesday, February 6, Jorgen Randers visited UAlbany to discuss his vision of the future. Randers is best known as the co-author of *The Limits to Growth*. The event was made possible by the joint efforts of the System Dynamics Society, NYS Writers Institute, the School of Business and College of Computing and Information, Rockefeller College and UAS. In his book, Randers sees a rather dim future for the United States, at least in terms of economic growth. This is mainly due to the fact that our society has shifted towards service and away from manufacturing. As a result, there is less potential for productivity gains. He sees a similar outcome from Europe although he feels they may fare a bit better since they have different governmental systems which are in a better position to make some of the tough choices that must be done to increase economic growth. Randers did not have much confidence in the US governmental system which he views as paralyzed to make even the smallest decisions. He recommended that we move away from using economic growth and GDP as our main measures of well being. He also sees a continued reliance on fossil fuels, at least until 2030 when the costs of fossil fuels will finally make renewables the better financial choice. He commented that in Europe gas costs about $10 per gallon. He discussed his work in Norway where they laid out a 15 point plan to reduce their carbon emissions by 60% but he is dismayed that only a couple of the recommended initiatives have been put into place. He has found that people don’t seem willing to pay for the cost of shifting to a carbon free future, even though it may only mean a couple of hundred dollars per family per year. Randers was almost apologetic for his dismal outlook, giving himself the moniker “a pessimist with a smiling face.”

Recipes Needed!!!

A call to all the home cooks out there: as part of the Earth Day Food and Arts Festival, Res Life will be putting together a cookbook made up of favorite family recipes. So if you have a great recipe to share, please email them to either Greg Back at gback@albany.edu or our mailbox at: gogreen@albany.edu.

**INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY!!**

Greg is also looking for someone to help design and compile the cookbook. Contact Greg directly if you are interested in working on this.

Two more speakers are on the agenda for this spring:

March 12th, 5:30 pm, Fine Arts 114. The Upstate NY chapter of the Green Building Council will be hosting a presentation from Stephen Beck, the Chief Sustainability Officer for LeChase Construction.

April 8, 7:30 pm, Earth Science 147. Greg Pahl, author of *Power from the People*, will be on campus to discuss how to organize, fund and launch local energy projects.

SAVE THE DATES AND JOIN US!
What is this Initiative?

The Bikeable U Albany Initiative is working to push more students, faculty, and staff to use bikes as an alternative form of transportation. How are we doing this?

- The Office of Campus Planning have installed brand new purple bike racks on the Podium, Downtown Campus, and Alumni.
- Free bike registration through UPD and PMTS that will be integrated with NYS wide registration.
- CK Cycles is giving 50% discount on their full tuning service for all registered bikes.
- Residential Life, Office of Campus Planning, and PMTS are working on the bicycle shelters’ preferred location determination.
- Student Involvement and Student Association are in full support of the Bike Co-op on campus by providing students to run the co-op.
- OCP has applied for UAS Program Funds to provide tools and repair stands for Bicycle Co-op.
- Free bike share program for on-campus students.

Did you know that a single car releases about 11,450 lbs. of CO₂ every year! Even when a car is not running, it is releasing CO₂ and volatile organic compounds such as gasoline into the atmosphere.

Why bike?

The United States uses approximately 50% of the world’s gasoline, which is about 400 million gallons a day. One gallon of gasoline is equal to about 19-20 pounds of carbon when burned. Emissions from traffic in the U.S. amount to almost 1 million tons of CO₂ released into the atmosphere per day. About 33% of off-campus students and 20% of campus employees live under 3 miles from campus. If even half of those students, faculty, and staff decided to ride a bike to campus one day a week or more, our carbon footprint could be reduced. Riding your bike to campus will not only reduce your carbon footprint, but it is a great work out! Having a bike on campus will also allow you to get around campus faster! There are many advantages of becoming a cyclist so take a moment and think if it is the right choice for you!

Brought to you by the offices of:
- Parking & Mass Transit Services
- Environmental Sustainability
- Campus Planning
- Residential Life
- University Police Department

Facts:
- In Denmark ~20% of trips are made by bicycle.
- In the Netherlands, ~20% of trips are made by bicycle.
- Many other countries are experiencing a rise in bicyclists as gasoline prices increase.
- In the U.S. ~1% of trips are made by bicycle.
- About 30% of Americans are obese compared to the 10% of Danes and Dutch.
Learn to Farm!

Come learn to farm at The Farming Institute! The Farming Institute is a unique, fast track, 11 week farming immersion program taking place on two vegetable farms using organic practices in Eastern Iowa. It is designed to equip emerging farmers of all ages, such as college students, recent graduates or others wanting to fulfill a dream. The program includes a mixture of hands on and classroom experience. During the program, students will complete a business plan for their future farm and learn about the land, the business of farming and the farming process. Some program topics are The Land: Soil and soil nutrients, crop rotation, farming philosophy, The Business: Business planning, marketing and sales, financial management, The Farming Process: Seed selection and planning, irrigation, weed and pest management and control, cover crops, harvest, packaging, delivery, storage and organic practices. The instructors discussing these topics are Susan Jutz, one of the first CSA farmers in the state of Iowa, Dick Schwab, a proven entrepreneur with experience managing multi-million dollar companies and Farmer Kate, a successful young farmer who created a profitable business from the start.

2013 Program Dates are May 30-August 16.

For an application form or for more information visit the program website at www.thefarminginstitute.com or contact Kate Edwards at kate.wildwoodsfarm@gmail.com or 319-333-2980.

CSA Fair

CSA stands for Community Supported Agriculture and is a way to support your local farmer and get fresh produce during the summer and early fall. How it works: you sign up for a share, pay the cost of the share for the season and then pick up the weekly offerings during the harvest season. This has become a very popular market of choice for small farms to get their produce out into the community. There will be a CSA fair in Clifton Park on March 23rd at 1 pm at the Halfmoon Public Library if you are interested in signing up. There are also other fairs throughout the state. See the schedule at: www.nofany.org/csafair

If you would like to learn more about CSA’s, go to:http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/AP/Organic/CommunitySupported.html

Sustainable Local Agriculture Series

ECOS and the Schenectady County League Of Women Voters Environment Committee are planning a series of three presentations on Sustainable Local Agriculture.

In session one, local farmers will discuss the challenges and promise of farming locally. Session two will look at policies and programs which affect local agriculture. The last session will focus on why maintaining a local agriculture base is important.

The programs will be on Thursdays, March 14th, 28th and April 11th at 7:00PM at the McChesney Room of the Schenectady Public Library.
Perfect Plants for Every Room in Your House!

Plants can be colorful decorations for every room in the house, yes, even the bathroom!

- A great plant for a sunny bedroom is a Gerbera Daisy (see right). Put the plant near where you air out dry-cleaned clothing. This colorful flowering plant reduces levels of benzene, a chemical solvent used or dry cleaning than can compromise your immune health and has been linked to anemia. This plant needs bright light, medium humidity and the temperature in the room should be 45° to 65° F.

- A good bathroom plant is a Janet Craig (see below). It lowers levels of the toxin trichloroethylene which, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, is linked to kidney and liver cancers and lymphoma. It is often found in paints, TCE can be released into the air if you take a hot shower in water contaminated with TCE. It needs medium light and humidity and likes the temperature to be 60° to 75° F.

- English Ivy is an easy to grow kitchen plant. It's good for removing formaldehyde, which can enter the air when you use some dishwashing liquids and disinfectants. Pressed-wood cabinets and tables may also emit the respiratory irritant. This plants prefers medium light, high humidity and a 50° to 70°F climate.

- A nice hallway plant is the Peace Lilly. This white flowering plant is one of the best at lowering TCE and benzene levels. Keep one in the hallway to prevent the spread of pollutants between rooms. The Lily needs medium light and humidity and a temperature of 55° to 75°F.

- The Boston Fern is the best plant for reducing formaldehyde and should be placed in the laundry room. Formaldehyde is a possible carcinogen that is present in some fabric softeners and carpet cleaners and can be emitted by certain wallpapers and paints. This plant needs high humidity.

- A good plant for an attached garage is the Golden Pothos (see right). It removes ozone, a respiratory irritant present in auto emissions. Keep this plant near the door connecting your house and garage. This plant doesn’t need much light, but it does need a 65° to 75°F temperature.

This article was featured in Prevention Magazine.
Keep Your Pets Safe and Warm in Winter!

Your pet might have fur, but he still needs a little help keeping warm during the colder months!

- Small dogs might look ridiculous wearing coats, but it is definitely a good idea! Small dogs have a high ratio of body area to body weight, so they lose heat faster than bigger dogs. But bigger dogs can benefit from a coat if they spend a lot of time outside in the cold.

- Getting caught outside in the rain without an umbrella is terrible, getting soaked can be worse for pets! Their fur retains water so the effects of dampness and cold are greater, so they are at a greater risk for hypothermia. An easy to carry fold up poncho will come in handy in case of an unexpected shower.

- During the winter, your pets skin gets dry too! If you notice that your pet has red, itchy dry skin, wash the affected area with a gentle soap and apply a triple antibiotic ointment. For a quick fix for a dry cracked nose, try a healing balm made for pets. Just apply it before a meal so your pet doesn’t lick it off (he’ll be distracted by the food and forget you even put it on!)

- Reflective gear is necessary for taking nighttime walks in rainy, snowy, or foggy weather; it helps drivers see your pet if he runs into traffic. Don’t forget to get a reflective collar for your cat! If he slips out the front door, a reflective collar will alert drivers to his presence and the nametag will help get him home safely.

- When you put on your snow boots, make sure to remember to put on your pet’s! He certainly can’t do it himself. Pets can get frostbite and the salt or chemicals spread to melt ice may irritate your dog’s paws.

Facts provided by Jeff Werber, DVM, and the original article, found in Prevention Magazine was written by Hannah Wolt.
Opportunities

As a continuing feature, we are bringing you listings for sustainability-related jobs both in and out of the area, internships, scholarships and other professional development opportunities.

Professional Opportunity: Faculty/Staff

REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS TO EPA BOARD OF SCIENTIFIC COUNSELORS SUSTAINABLE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES RESEARCH SUBCOMMITTEE

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is seeking nominations for technical experts to serve on its Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC), a federal advisory committee to the Office of Research and Development (ORD). ORD is forming a BOSC subcommittee to provide independent scientific and technical peer review, consultation, advice, and recommendations to the Sustainable and Healthy Communities Research Program. Individuals and organizations can nominate themselves or others by using the nomination form on the BOSC website at http://www.epa.gov/osp/bosc/nomination.htm. The nomination period is open until April 1, 2013.

Details regarding areas of expertise sought, process for submitting nominations, and selection criteria can be found in the Federal Register.

For more information go to:

To learn more information about BOSC or the ORD Research Programs, go to their websites at http://epa.gov/osp/bosc/index.htm and http://www.epa.gov/ord/research-programs.htm, respectively.

If you have any questions, contact the Sustainable and Healthy Communities Subcommittee Designated Federal Officer, Claudia Walters (walters.claudia@epa.gov).

AASHE JOB LISTINGS

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education listed a few job offers in their bulletin. They include assistant professors and sustainability coordinators all over the United States.

For a list go to:
http://www2.aashe.org/archives/2013/0219.php

Scroll down and all the jobs are listed under “Opportunities”
Opportunities (con’t)

Student Workshop

BARD COLLEGE STUDENT LEADERSHIP

C2C Fellows convenes regional weekend training workshops for selected current and recent college undergraduates. These weekend workshops support students to envision a path to early leadership and develop their skills. Interactive workshops cover communication, entrepreneurship, environmental and climate science, media, raising capital, and other critical topics. These are working meetings: the weekend’s output for each student will be to develop one key leadership skill: communication. Working with trainers, each student develops and delivers a short, structured and persuasive talk, making the case for a policy vision, or social or business venture of the student’s choice. Undergraduates and recent graduates from any college or university are welcome to attend. The registration fee for the weekend is $30, and includes food and lodging. Students can often apply for funding to their student governments or activity boards. Scholarships are also available. Also apply for more upcoming workshops!

Apply at: https://crm.orionondemand.com/crm/forms/zB00420N703m0x6702S8K

Student Fellowship

CLEAN AIR COOL PLANET’S CLIMATE FELLOWSHIP

Clean Air Cool Planet’s Climate Fellowships pair outstanding students with important projects that will propel the US toward a low-carbon future. Fellows spend 10 weeks during the summer working on meaningful, challenging projects at CA-CP and with our partners. In return, Fellows receive a stipend, as well as supervision, mentorship, and unique networking opportunities. 2013 Fellows will also join a growing group of nearly 50 CA-CP Climate Fellowship alumni, the vast majority of whom have remained in the environmental/energy fields.

Review available Fellowship postings and learn how to apply at http://cleanair-coolplanet.org/2013-fellowships/.

All Fellowship applications must be received by March 1, 2013, in order to be considered.
Opportunities (con’t)

Student Internship

SUSTAINABILITY CAPACITY-BUILDING INTERNSHIP

Second Nature is a Boston-based non-profit organization working to create a sustainable society by transforming higher education through a variety of initiatives including the American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment (ACUPCC), a program which supports over 660 colleges and universities in making healthy, just, and sustainable living the foundation of all learning and practice in higher education.

Second Nature is seeking applications for an intern to join the American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) Program Team to assist on projects that aim to advance climate leadership and sustainability education initiatives at colleges and universities across the country. The Sustainability Capacity-Building Intern will work on a variety of activities to advance the goals of the ACUPCC and other Second Nature initiatives related to education, green building, greenhouse gas reporting, and climate action planning. These program activities may include analysis of energy and climate data, outreach support to signatory institutions, blogging, social media management, and webinar development. The Intern will also focus on supporting special programs with minority-serving institutions, climate adaptation and resiliency, and select fundraising activities.

- Necessary skills include excellent project and time management, a strong phone and interpersonal communication style, knowledge of campus sustainability, and ability to work independently and contribute to the growth of a team.
- Outstanding candidates will possess: data analysis skills and proficiency in Microsoft Excel, knowledge of Salesforce or other customer management software, an advanced understanding of the ACUPCC including experience with greenhouse gas inventories and/or climate action planning, in-depth knowledge and passion for climate leadership issues relevant to higher education, and the ability to contribute to the growth of the organization and program through new skills, insights, and ideas.

Who Should Apply: Graduate students, highly motivated undergraduates, and recent graduates are invited to apply. Women and minority applicants are strongly encouraged to apply.

Position Details: This position requires a 6-month working presence in the Second Nature office in downtown Boston during working hours (9am-5pm), beginning late January or early February 2013. Candidates will work 20-30 hours/week with flexibility around holidays and academic calendars. This is a competitively paid internship.

How to Apply: Please submit a resume and cover letter stating your interest in the position and qualifications to careers@secondnature.org. Applicants should include the names and contact information of two references in their resume and explain their work availability (see position details). Applications will be reviewed beginning January 22, 2013 on a rolling basis.
Opportunities (con’t)

Student Scholarships

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIPS 2013-2014
For more than 30 years, the University at Albany Alumni Association has provided scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students to help continue UAlbany’s tradition of excellence and opportunity.

Alumni Association Spirit Scholarship ($1,000 each): Awarded to three UAlbany students who demonstrate outstanding school spirit and commitment to the University and its students.

The Agnes E. Futterer Memorial Fellowship ($800): Awarded to a UAlbany senior entering graduate study in theatre or a theatre-related field at UAlbany or any other accredited institution or recognized theatre program.

The Albert N. Husted Fellowship ($1,000): Awarded to a UAlbany senior planning for full-time graduate study in any area of study at the University or any other accredited university.

The Adna W. Risley Memorial Scholarship ($500): Awarded to a UAlbany senior or graduate student pursuing a graduate degree in history.

The Class of 1972 Scholarship ($600): Awarded to a graduating UAlbany senior planning to enter full-time graduate study at the University during the next academic year.

Bertha Brimmer Legacy Scholarship ($1,500): Awarded to a current or incoming legacy freshman or legacy transfer student. A legacy is a child or grandchild of an alumnu/a.

Applications are due March 7.

Scholarship applications will be available online beginning Jan. 25, 2013 at http://www.albany.edu/alumni/Scholarships.php.
Get Involved in Sustainability

UAlbany Students For Sustainability (USS)

This group strives to raise awareness and implement programming and events designed to encourage sustainable behavior on campus.

They meet every other Tuesday at 8:30 pm in Humanities 114. To join, click on their my involvement link at:

If you are interested in the group, contact them at their My Involvement page: http://albany.collegiatelink.net/organization/USS

Student Sustainability Council

This serves as an advisory body to the Office of Environmental Sustainability and consists of appointed chairs and delegates from the residential halls, NYPIRG, the Student Association and the Graduate Student Organization. Students must apply and complete a sustainability training session to become an appointed chair. Training sessions are currently set for Feb 26, 28 and March 4. See the time and locations on the next page under “events for Spring”

Early next month, the call for chairs will go out. Chairs agree to attend the bi-weekly meetings of the council and bi-weekly check in on their progress. They also agree to attend and volunteer at sustainability events throughout the academic year. The applications will be due in the beginning of April and chair selections will be announced at the Earth and Wellness Day event on April 18th.

Faculty and Staff Sustainability Coordinators

The sustainability coordinators program is designed for faculty and staff members who wish to help increase awareness about sustainable operations on campus.

Coordinators meet the first Tuesday of every month at noontime during the academic year. If you would like to become a coordinator or would like to nominate someone from your department, contact Mary Ellen at 956-8120 or by email at mmallia@albany.edu. A full list of coordinators is on our website at: http://www.albany.edu/gogreen/5.sustainability_coordinators.shtml

THINKGREEN listserv

This listserv is for faculty who want to participate in developing academic offerings that are sustainability related. This could include speakers, research forums, developing new content units within existing courses or even developing new courses. To sign up for the list serv go to: http://www.albany.edu/its/faculty_listserv.htm

Or you can contact Mary Ellen at mmallia@albany.edu to subscribe.

Academic activity this fall includes the continuation of the World of Environmental Sustainability living, learning community, several one credit freshman seminars and the return of the sustainability roundtable, featuring research from our faculty and graduate students. A working group has been formed to identify coordinated curriculum opportunities. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Mary Ellen.
Events for Spring:

**February**
- 24 to March 2 Small Electronics Recycling Week
- 26 Sustainability Council Training, 7 pm SS134
- 26 Jeans to Handbag Program, 8 pm Colonial Penthouse
- 28 Sustainability Council Training, 5:30 pm SLOG 20

**March**
- 4 Movie Night, Bag It, 7:30 pm LC 2
- 4 Sustainability Council Training, 9 pm LC 2
- 5 USS group meeting, 8:30 pm HU114
- 8 Sustainability Council Meeting, 3 pm, TBA
- 12 Upstate NYGBC speaker, Stephen Beck, 5:30 pm FA114
- 24 to 30 Plastic Bag recycling week
- 29 Sustainability Council Meeting, 3 pm UNH 306
- 30 Recyclemania Ends

**April**
- 2 USS group meeting, 8:30 pm HU114
- 8 Greg Pahl, author of *Power from the People*, 7:30 pm ES 147
- 12 Sustainability Council Meeting, 3 pm UNH 306
- 16 USS group meeting, 8:30 pm HU114
- 18 Earth and Wellness Day, 11 am to 2 pm Campus Center
- 20 Earth Day Food and Arts Festival, 1 to 5 pm Liberty Terrace
- 25 Sustainability Council Meeting, 3 pm UNH 105
- 30 Campus Clean Up Day, 9 am to 4 pm
- 30 USS group meeting, 8:30 pm HU114

**May**
- 3 Shredding Day
- 16 to 24 Give and Go

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**Office of Environmental Sustainability**

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**UAlbany**

**Green Scene**

**UAGreenScene**

Stay up to date by accessing our on line calendar: [https://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=a6e9bseebd24ml1bpfvfsmhgt4%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/New_York](https://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=a6e9bseebd24ml1bpfvfsmhgt4%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/New_York)