USGBC Sustainable Speaker Series

May 13

Give and Go

May 13th– May 30th

Click here for the full calendar of events.
Inside This Issue

4  Earth and Wellness Day
6  The Terras
8  Trashion Fashion
12 Green SUNYs
13 Earth Day Recap
14 Give and Go
16 Around Town
18 Opportunities

Congrats to our Director Dr. Mary Ellen Mallia for receiving the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Professional Service!

Cover photo by Mark McCarthy
A Student Perspective on Earth and Wellness Day

By Laurel Engelsson

Earth and Wellness day was a fun, interactive, and educational celebration of the environment, individual health, and well-being. The event took place at the uptown campus, with activities in and outside of campus center. It was part of a week series of events recognizing Earth Day and the need to increase sustainable living on campus. This year’s theme was “Unplug to Reconnect,” which encouraged campus community members to take time to disconnect themselves from many of the technology devices that have become ubiquitous in our daily lives, and to start reconnecting with friends, family, and themselves. Student groups and local organizations tabled to provide information and hands on activities regarding environmental activities in the community.

Around the small fountain, student groups tailored their message to students. The heritage garden group had a veggie painting table set up, letting students paint with vegetable while learning about plans for the new community garden on campus. The group 50x15 convinced students that local organic food not only tastes great, but is much more sustainable and healthier than conventional processed foods. These tastings encouraged students to participate in efforts to get 50% of our campus food from local food sources by 2015 by signing a petition.

Therapy dogs in the West Lounge of the Campus Center allowed for participants to relax and de-stress in the midst of all the responsibilities that accompany the semester’s end.

Up in the Ballroom, many fitness demonstrations showed the innovative ways that we can care for our body and mind. Folks tried out chair yoga, hula hoop fitness, tai chi, and drum therapy.

Personal health and fitness and the state of our environment go hand in hand. In order to have a positive impact on both the environment and your body, “unplug and reconnect”. You will be happier with yourself, improve your relationships, and mother earth will thank you!
The Terras

Each semester, the Office of Environmental Sustainability awards one faculty member, one staff member, and one student a Terra to recognize their individual commitments to advancing sustainability on campus. Take a moment to read about the dedication and achievements of a few of UAlbany’s outstanding individuals.

Staff Award: Lara Kaye

Lara Kaye is a notable leader on the downtown campus in improving sustainable practices and operations. She brings a rare combination of vision and attention to detail to her efforts.

Significantly, Lara guided the Center for Human Services Research through a process to pilot the Green Workspace Challenge instrument. She engaged and led a committee of six Center staff to test the instrument. The green committee thoroughly reviewed the Center’s current practices as outlined on the instrument, administered an online survey to the Center’s staff on green practices, analyzed all results, and consolidated all feedback into a summary document. The entire process was completed on time and resulted in detailed recommendations for the Office of Sustainability.

While completing the pilot, Lara encouraged a process of self-reflection and improvement in sustainable practices. She developed and disseminated “Green Ideas” to the Center’s staff on email, and led improvements to our Center’s practices, for example, gaining approval to switch to 100% recycled copier paper, improving staff awareness of and access to recycling stations, and establishing a reusable office supplies station for all staff to use. Lara’s efforts are both visionary and pragmatic. The educational materials she continues to develop and disseminate to the Center staff are clear, colorful and easily digestible (see attached Green Ideas and recycling posters). Her ideas have broad appeal, which lends them to easy replication in other settings and departments.

Lara models sustainable practices in her everyday life, bringing a powerful example to the colleagues around her. She is successful in educating her colleagues about sustainable actions in and out of the workplace. Lara holds paperless meetings, brings her own dishes and mugs for the café staff to fill up with lunch or coffee, charges up her electric car at the downtown charging station, and most recently, manages and brings home the Center’s compost.
Student Award: Cassidy Drasser

Cassidy has contributed to the sustainability movement for nearly five years. She was a member of the very first freshman sustainability themed house and since that time has remained extremely active and taken on leadership roles. She has worked in the sustainability office, served as President of the student group and was a chair on the Sustainability Council. In these capacities, she helped raise the membership numbers of the group, oversaw the green grams fundraiser donating over $300 to the Albany Pine Bush Discovery Center and has been active in promoting and managing outreach for our alternative transportation options. Cassidy has continued her work in this arena as a grad student pursuing a degree in Biodiversity. She formed a GSA sustainability group and has procured funding to support several events on campus including the sustainability roundtable series, the bike co-op establishment, the heritage garden and the Earth Day Family Event. Cassidy also serves as the Community Assistant in the World of Environmental Health and Green Living.

Faculty Award: Gary Kleppel

Gary does it all. He is the reason why we have made so many strides in terms of raising awareness about the importance of local food and sustainable farming practices. Gary was one of the original members of the Environmental Sustainability Task Force, a forerunner to the Office of Environmental Sustainability’s current efforts. Due to his work on the food and dining committee, the university established a large farmer's market as part of community engagement day, began to increase their local procurement from 5% to 8% in one year and originated the purchase of grass fed beef back in 2007. Each of these highlighted Gary's commitment and perseverance to complete his goal and all of them were initiatives before their time, making Gary truly an innovator on the cutting edge of sustainability efforts. Today Gary is the lead faculty and head of our living, learning community on sustainability. He gives so much of his time to our students to make them critical thinkers but also advocates for the changes they wish to see.

Gary has impacted the entire university by engaging in outreach across academic, operational and community boundaries. His sheep herding demonstrations at community day provide the perfect ice breaker to discuss sustainability. His organization of teach ins and symposiums allowed students, faculty, staff and dining services to discuss the opportunities and barriers to getting local foods. His efforts have helped area farmers and cooperatives by providing them a new revenue source. His research on the use of grazing to control invasive species has benefited several public lands where his research has taken place along with the numerous students he has engaged in this research. No pun intended but the seeds he has planted in the minds of our students has provided so many beneficial outcomes for them as learners and development as leaders.
Trashion Fashion takes the stage at UAlbany

By Brandon Phillips, originally printed in the Albany Student Press

Lights and music lit up the runway on Thursday April 24, followed by garbage-clad models strutting shopping bags woven into dresses with accessorized bottle caps and broken CDs.

The University at Albany held its first ever Trashion Fashion Show, sponsored and hosted by UAS, UA Campus Programming Board, The Office of Environmental Sustainability and the Department of Residential Life in the Campus Center Ballroom.

The show was broken into two halves, starting off with a performance by Umoja Dance Team and breaking in the middle with a solo singing performance by Jamice Miller of Phenomenal Voices.

Each of the emcees entertained the crowd by calling out numerous shout-outs to the audience and having spectators come to the stage to compete in environmental runway challenges and spontaneous dance competitions.

“We want this to be an annual thing,” said Araba Apau, one of five emcees hosting the night’s show. The fashion show came two days after Earth Day and took place just hours after the University’s 18th annual Campus Clean-Up.

The fashion show was also a competition decided on voting from the audience based on their favorite designs.

15 teams competed with 16 models including individual entries, clubs, living-learning communities, sororities, and Residential Life staff from both uptown and downtown campuses.

Many teams had multiple designers. Jennifer Giza, Jennifer Garo, Erica Swatson and Erika Kish were the designers for State Quad’s winning design, which featured a woven black and white trash and shopping bag and a full dress accessorized with a golden CD as a hairpiece. It was modeled by Danelly Bello.

“We all came together to design it,” Kish said. Each outfit went through the stages and processes of designing and creating the dress from recycled bags, featuring layers of woven plastic.

UAlbany Students for Sustainability’s Nicholle Gregor designed and modeled her own piece creating a chic multi-colored skirt and top.

“I made it out of goat and chick feed bags,” Gregor said pointing at the different colored sections of her outfit. The materials used were shared with other models, including the fan favorite winner Cameron Sagan of UAlbany Environmental Sustainability Group. Sagan used the feed bags for his roman soldier costume which included body armor, a helmet, shield and spear, earning him the $150 winning prize.

Winner of the student group best design was Hamilton Hall Sustainability Themed House. Kayla Sutton modeled a short black puffy skirt and a black top accessorized with bottle caps, heels and black wings made from pizza boxes. Her lively team showed off the outfit and how they obtained their recycled materials for each part of the piece.

Winner of the individual category designers and models was Crystal Simon, who wore a lavish white two-strap dress made of plastic bags that extended to the floor. The dress flowed backwards and she wore heels for her walk. Every team spoke about their roles in the process of designing and creating the outfits from collecting the materials needed to produce the pieces and fitting the materials together to fit the model and competition requirements.

Rules for the competition found on the University website required that each piece had to be at least 50 percent recycled or made from reclaimed materials that, “would otherwise be thrown away or recycled.”

Each team provided their own model and the judging for the fashion pieces would be based on, “overall creativity, construction, wearable quality, presentation on the runway, and attention to environmental sustainability. Some of the judges for the competition included president of the Student Association Francis Agyemang, and Editor-in-Chief of the Albany Student Press, Lauren Mineau.

After a final showing of all the designs and many more shout-outs during the delay on counting votes, the four winners were announced and allowed to walk down the runway one more time. Many of them danced to DJ Sixx Figazz, who provided music for the runway.

Many audience members were shocked by the design talent of the students who created the pieces and were excited to see real fashion being made and shown off.

Jessica Jacobs, a spectator of the show was fascinated by the clothes created from garbage bags and other bits of plastic.

“It was a lot nicer than I expected, I thought it was going to be dumpy but it was really high class and everyone’s outfits were spectacular!” Jacobs said.

Ian Buzby, another spectator who saw the show, was also impressed with the designs shown on the runway.

“I thought that it was very fashionable,” Buzby said.
Ten SUNY campuses have been named top “Green Colleges” by the Princeton Review for 2014 in collaboration with the Center for Green Schools at the U.S. Green Building Council. The ten schools are among 332 “most environmentally responsible colleges in the United States and Canada,” according to the Princeton Review.

“SUNY campuses across the state are among the most energy-smart in the nation, a leadership role that we continue to build upon through the expanded use of green technologies and sustainability initiatives,” said SUNY Chancellor Zimpher.

“Congratulations to all 10 SUNY campuses to be included in the 2014 Guide to Green Colleges. This recognition is much deserved and highly commendable.”

The rankings are released as we celebrate Earth Day on April 22 and include the addition of two campuses over last year’s same list—evidence that the Power of SUNY is truly working for all of New York in way of SUNY and an Energy Smart NY.

“In collaborating with The Princeton Review on this annual guide, we have seen that sustainability on campuses continues to be an important deciding factor for today’s four-year college bound students,” said Rachel Gutter, director of the Center for Green Schools at the U.S. Green Building Council.

The ten SUNY campuses named among North America’s top “Green Colleges” for 2014 are:
- University at Albany
- Binghamton University
- SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
- SUNY Fredonia
- SUNY Geneseo
- SUNY New Paltz
- SUNY Oneonta
- SUNY Oswego
- SUNY Purchase College
- Stony Brook University

The Princeton Review chose the schools for this guide based on a survey it conducted in 2013 of administrators at hundreds of four-year colleges to measure the schools’ commitment to the environment and to sustainability. The institutional survey included questions on the schools’ course offerings, campus infrastructure, activities and career preparation. The complete rankings and college profiles are available for free download at the rankings’ website.

By Maxwell Morgan on April 17, 2014 in College Rankings
UAlbany Hosts Second Family Earth Day

UAlbany wraps up a week of events celebrating the planet with its second Family Earth Day.

This is the second year the school's Department for Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences has organized the event. It's geared toward teaching children and families about the environment by including them in fun, hands-on activities. Those included a community-building challenge, a worm composting activity, and a traveling nitrogen game where students learned how clouds are formed. But organizers said the event isn't just about having fun, it's about the future.

"It's important for kids to understand how the earth works, so they can take care of it when they become grown-ups and need to lead their lives and move on with their careers. So, this is our chance to get them involved, and understand how the earth processes work so they can be good stewards when they grow up," said Roberta Johnson, UAlbany Clinical Professor. Organizers said they're planning on making Family Earth Day an annual event.

Click here to see the video of the event.

Originally printed on April 27, 2014 by Time Warner Cable News Staff.

---

Food and Art Fest

On Saturday, April 26th, Residential Life staff hosted the second annual Food and Art Fest on Liberty Terrace. Over 200 students came out for the celebration that offered local food samples, tie-dying, crafts, hula hooping and music.

Michelle Boyle, owner of local boutique cleaning company Green Genies, taught students about the importance of avoiding toxins in our everyday products and guided them in a workshop to create their own green and safe cleaning supplies.

Special thanks to those who provided food including: Carioto Produce, Sodexo, Rockland Bakery, Purdy & Sons Foods, Damn Good Foods, Byrne Dairy, Cabot Creamery, and Honest Weight Food Co-op.

The planning committee would like to thank all of those who made the day special: Heritage Garden Club, Hula Hoop Extraordinaire, Kristyn Muller, Precizun Step Team, Musical Artist, Amanda Crotty, Black Theatre Productions, our amazing volunteers, University Apartments Student and Professional staff members, Food and Art Festival Planning Committee (Shanese Rouse, Phyllicia Coley, Kathryn DeLauter, & Elizabeth Foley), Ashley Walker, Leandra Harris, Steve Lampedusa, & all of our wonderful attendees!
It’s almost time for the annual Give and Go! Moving out at the end of the semester? Give a second life to your unwanted items by dropping them off at one of the “pod units” (see above) that will be located on each quad beginning May 13th. We work with Albany organizations to find your goods a new home. The program is made possible through the generous support of UAS.
UAlbany BikeShare

Need some wheels?

Use one of our bikes to get around, on and off campus!

- Bikes are available at quad wellness centers and apartment offices.
- Rental is free of charge.
- Includes bike lock and helmet.
- Daily rental; must be returned by 9 PM.

Bikes are provided by the Office of Environmental Sustainability and Residential Life, with money saved during the fall semester Energy Campaign.
USGBC Sustainable Speaker Series

Join the US Green Building Council’s New York Chapter for the May Sustainable Speaker Series on May 13th at 5:30 in UAlbany’s Business Building 003. Come listen to Sloane Bullough of the New York State historic Preservation Office present “Historic Streetscape Lighting – Integration of Aesthetic Concerns with Modern Technology,” Learn about how to create an inviting downtown area that is also energy efficient. Free to UAlbany staff and Students, but please be sure to register.

By Sarah Helgeson
Choosing a natural path for your pet

Ever wonder what exactly we feed our pets or if there was an alternative to expensive medication when they’re sick? Dr. Tanya Holonko, a seasoned veterinarian of 19 years, is holding a class on May 9th from 6pm-9:30pm. During that time you will learn holistic modifications you can make to your animal’s health care- whole fresh food, homemade diets, and nutrition; glandular and herbal therapies; homeopathy; chiropractic and spinal manipulation and other musculoskeletal therapies.

Natural Networking Night

Join us for a social evening for Natural Awakenings Magazine advertisers, readers and supporters. It's been an amazing 6 months since the magazine’s launch in the District. Let's celebrate and network with the local wellness community at Short and Stout Tea in Guilderland 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, May 15th.
Opportunities

Environmental Advocates of New York

As the leading environmental watchdog, Environmental Advocates of New York offers interns a front row seat and active role in the policy making process. While learning about a host of environmental issues, they will get to see how a bill really becomes a law in New York and work behind the scenes to make it happen. Interns will learn how to draft position memos, lobby, and monitor session by attending legislative committee meetings, and observing floor votes in both the Senate and the Assembly. There will also be opportunities to collaborate with advocates from other organizations and to engage with the communications and membership teams here at Environmental Advocates.

The intern will tackle a variety of substantive assignments, including: research, writing, lobbying, and coalition building. Environmental Advocates’ current issue areas include climate change, clean air and energy, fracking, water quality and natural resources protection, fiscal policy and other environmental and public health issues. Often the issues are before the Legislature, but some of our policy work is direct advocacy before the executive branch.

Qualifications: Demonstrated research, writing, and communications skills; interest in environmental protection and learning about state legislative and regulatory processes; enthusiasm, and willingness to tackle new projects.

The spring internship runs from May through August. Start and end dates flexible. Position is full-time or part-time (20 hours minimum), depending on intern’s availability. Interns must maintain a regular schedule. All internships are unpaid. We will assist in arranging credit for students through their schools.

How to apply:

Application Procedure: Send resume and cover letter to the address below, with the job title in the subject line. Please include in your letter the hours to which you would commit and the start/end date that works for you, along with specific environmental issues that interest you.

Contact Information:
Intern Coordinator
E-mail: info@eany.org

ECOS

Over the next few weeks, ECOS will be unveiling a newly designed website that will be more interactive. To showcase many of the natural areas that the organization frequents, ECOS is in search of regular contributors to take quality, high resolution photos, in addition to contributing writers to highlight the issues and activities relating to our local environment. If interested, email info@ecosny.org.
Food Recovery Network Fellowships

Founded in September of 2011, Food Recovery Network (FRN) is the largest national student-led food recovery movement working to bring food recovery programs to colleges across the country. Made up of dozens of chapters at colleges and universities, FRN has recovered over 300,000 pounds of food and is rapidly expanding.

We are looking for 7 fellows to work full-time on the Member Support and Expansion teams at FRN HQ in College Park, Maryland. Fellowships start on August 11, 2014 and end May 15, 2015. Fellows receive a $1,500 per month stipend.

Please send only one application for your preferred fellowship role; please indicate if you wish to be considered for other roles. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis through May 15, 2014.

Member Support Fellowships (3)
There are three FRN Member Support fellowships for the 2014-2015 school year. The mission of FRN Member Support is to provide resources and advice to official FRN chapters to expand their capacity and impact, and to increase visibility on campus, in their communities, and on a national level. FRN Member Support works to build strong connections among all chapters and an affiliation with FRN National via monthly video chats, regional summits and a yearly national conference.
Each fellow will perform the same basic duties, with an additional focus based on interest and expertise (Communications, Event Planning, Liaison for Student Initiatives). All fellows report to the Director of Member Support. Some work outside the Member Support department may be required at times.
View position description and find application instructions here.

Expansion Fellowships (4)
There are four FRN Expansion fellowships for the 2014-2015 school year. The Expansion Team is composed of New Chapter Coordinators working under the Director of Expansion. New Chapter Coordinators work to start new Food Recovery Network programs on campuses throughout the country, mentoring students one-on-one to take them through the process of starting chapters and working to improve our processes, resources and outreach. Each Expansion Fellow will act as a New Chapter Coordinator with occasional work on other projects.
View position description and find application instructions here.
Bike to Work Day is Friday, May 16th! Inspired by Bikeatoga’s annual competition the last three years, the Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC) is sponsoring the Capital Region Bike to Work Challenge for Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Schenectady Counties.

You can [register here](#). If your employer isn’t listed, you may add a team. We update the team list daily. Print this [poster](#) to get your coworkers to join.

Trophies will be awarded in each county for the following categories. Winners will “own” the trophies for the next year, until Bike to Work Day 2015. Teams will be asked to submit a list of actual participants and the total number of firm employees no later than Wednesday, May 21 2014.