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Around the Campus

Celebrate Earth Month with us!

March 29 from 6-8 pm
   *Hope on the Hudson* film screening with Jon Bowermaster
   Lecture Center 20

April 10 at 8 pm
   Trashion Fashion Show
   Campus Center Ballroom

April 14 from 11-2 pm
   Family Earth Day
   University Hall

April 19 from 5:30-8 pm
   The Blue Planet film screening
   Lecture Center 20

April 21 from 10-12 pm
   The BIG Event, Indian Pond Clean Up
   Indian Pond at UAlbany

April 23 at 7 pm
   Wasted film screening and panel discussion
   The Linda, Central Avenue in Albany

April 24
   Campus Clean Up
   University at Albany Campus
Dr. Bob Keesee is a professor in the Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences. He teaches ENV 250: Sustainable Development: Energy and Resources. He teaches ENV 250 in the spring and an online version of it in the fall. In the fall of 2017, Bob received a Terra Award for being a lifetime supporter of sustainability at UAlbany and is the faculty advisor for UAlbany Students for Sustainability. He will be retiring at the end of this semester and will certainly be missed! Good luck!

What is the course's focus on sustainability?

*As the title suggests ENV250 focuses on the sustainability of energy resources. The course examines the current and past energy portfolios and their environmental impacts in the U.S. and globally. The course also explores the technology, economics and policies that influence energy choices.*

What role does sustainability play in the discipline of environmental science?

*The answer to whether an activity is actually sustainable is not as straightforward as many people may think. The goal of environmental science is to improve our understanding of the workings and interactions of physical, chemical and biological components of our environment. This knowledge is vital in order to better manage human activities involving energy and material use in the hopes of achieving a better quality of life through more sustainable practices while minimizing impacts on natural systems.*
What are some of the sustainability learning outcomes or goals of your course? What will the students walk away with?

I hope students come away with the understanding that exploiting any energy source has environmental impacts. Even with renewable energy, one must also consider the sustainable use of the mineral resources needed to extract and distribute that energy. Minimizing human impact on the environment requires a focus on conservation and efficiency as well as sustainability.

How do you assess your student's sustainability literacy?

For the in-class course, clickers are regularly used to assess prior knowledge, ascertain comprehension of lecture and reading material, and poll opinions. Understanding energy use and comparing options requires numbers. On-line homework, involving gathering energy information and using that information to make quantitative conclusions, is assigned as well. Three exams are also given during the semester.

For the on-line course, rather than clickers, student forums are used to encourage expression of ideas and discussion. The exams are replaced by unit (weekly) quizzes.
Building 25 became the first building on campus to achieve the highest LEED certification!

The project reuses the existing building shell to create an energy-efficient and sustainable building that uses 39% less energy and 37% less water than a similar code-compliant design. The building incorporates energy monitoring systems to measure and verify the building’s energy performance and ensure that the building continues to perform at its intended level.

The parking lot utilizes porous asphalt to improve storm water quality. The inviting main staircase and the walkability of the project neighborhood promote active design and healthy lifestyles.
The project reduced its environmental footprint by diverting 77% of the construction waste from the landfill, using 34% recycled content in the construction materials, sourcing 20% of the materials from within a 500 miles radius, and using Forest Stewardship Council certified wood for 64% of all wood used in the project. Use of low-emitting adhesives, sealants, paints, coatings, flooring, and composite wood improve the indoor air quality of the building.
Are wind turbines impacting local climate?

A nine year study of NASA satellite data was conducted by scientists in the Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences - Liming Zhou and Justin Minder, graduate student Geng Xia and Atmospheric Science Research Center scientist Jeff Freedman. The data presented evidence that there are nighttime warming effects in a Texas region covered with wind farms.

The team simulated the land-surface temperature responses of 2,358 wind turbines, conducted during the month of July from 2003-2004 and 2010-2014, using the Weather Research and Forecasting model. The simulations reproduced the observed warming (within 1/10 of a degree) detected from the satellite data. In addition, the simulations produced a cooling effect behind the wind farm region at night. However, it was not observed in the satellite data.
and Climate

The hypothesis for this study is that the warming over the wind farm region is due to downward heat transport. Meaning, the wind turbine works like a fan—pulling down warmer air from higher altitudes to the surface in the evening.

More research is needed to confirm and understand the simulated downwind cooling effect, since it has yet to be recorded by NASA data.

Wind power has experienced a significant growth recently and is acknowledged as a key to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. It is important to understand the possible impacts of wind farms on the local environment and climate and for developing efficient adaptation and management strategies to ensure long-term sustainability of wind power.

Advantages of Wind Energy:
- It is cost effective
- It creates jobs
- It is a clean fuel source
- Wind enables U.S. industry growth and U.S. competitiveness
- Wind is a domestic energy source
- It's sustainable—it is a form of solar energy
- Wind farms can be built on existing farms/ranches

For more information, check out the journal article.
Trashion Fashion

Do you have what it takes to be UAlbany's next great designer? Can you turn unconventional materials into a beautiful design?

UAlbany is hosting our 5th annual Trashion Fashion show, where you create an ensemble made from reclaimed and recyclable materials.

The Challenge:
Create a wearable work of art using recyclable or reusable materials.

How to Join:
1. Decide which category you would like to submit your design.
2. Gather a group of friends to join you (if you’re not submitting in the Individual category), decide who will be the model, and begin to gather materials.
3. Submit the registration form at [https://myinvolvement.org/submitter/form/start/91118](https://myinvolvement.org/submitter/form/start/91118)

**Community Service hours can be awarded**

Categories include: Student and Greek organization, L-LC, Quad, Individual and Campus Office.

CASH PRIZE FOR WINNING DESIGNS IN EACH CATEGORY!

When: Tuesday, April 10 at 8 pm
Where: Campus Center Ballroom
Terra Award Nominations

Do you know a student, faculty or staff member that makes a positive impact towards the sustainability movement at UAlbany?

The Office of Sustainability has established the Terra Award to recognize one student, one faculty and one staff member for their commitment to advancing the sustainable culture.

The distinction will be decided upon a nominee's work within the framework of C.O.R.E. The acronym identifies the four main areas in which a person can effect change in the area of sustainability: Curriculum, Operations, Research and/or Engagement.

The recipients will be announced at the Campus Clean Up luncheon on Tuesday, April 24 at 12 pm in the Campus Center Ballroom.

Past Terra Award Recipients:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Staff</th>
<th>Faculty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2013</td>
<td>Caitlin Janiszewski</td>
<td>Greg Back</td>
<td>Dr. Linda Krzykowski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2014</td>
<td>Cassidy Drasser</td>
<td>Lara Kaye</td>
<td>Dr. Gary Kleppel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2014</td>
<td>Lisa Cassidy</td>
<td>Dylan Card</td>
<td>Dr. Roberta Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2015</td>
<td>Tom Wolcott/Krista Benson</td>
<td>James Rath, Nadia Rodriguez</td>
<td>Mary McCarthy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. Kendra Smith-Howard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2015</td>
<td>Nicholle Gregor</td>
<td>Donna Crisafulli</td>
<td>Dr. Mathias Vuille</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2016</td>
<td>Amanda Colley</td>
<td>Stephen Pearse</td>
<td>Judge Eleanor Stein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2017</td>
<td>Jessica Tsang</td>
<td>Radha Urrribarri</td>
<td>Donna Duffy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. Ron Friedman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2017</td>
<td>Madison Corbeil</td>
<td>Aggie Pijanowski</td>
<td>Zakhar Berkovich</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. Oliver Elison Timm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2017</td>
<td>Rob Bertolacci</td>
<td>Maki Mandelis</td>
<td>Darcie Abbiatiello</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Dr. Bob Keesee</td>
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You can read about their accomplishments here.

The deadline to submit a nomination is April 13, 2018 at 5 pm at: https://myinvolvement.org/submitter/form/start/84664
Family Earth Day

Celebrate Earth Day with your family by learning about the atmosphere, environmental science and sustainability through fun activities, demonstrations, weather balloon launches and more! This event is geared toward children ages 5 and up. This event is FREE and open to the public!

**When:** Saturday, April 14 from 11 am – 2 pm

**Where:** University Hall, University at Albany uptown campus

Campus Clean Up

Help beautiful our campuses for the 22nd Annual Campus Clean Up! Sign up [here](#).

**Morning Shift:** 9 am - 12 pm

**Lunch:** 12-1 pm (sponsored by TIAA-CREF)

**Afternoon Shift:** 1 pm - 4 pm
Green Dane Cup
The Green Dane Cup is an annual year-long competition among the living areas to determine who is the greenest of them all! The winner is decided by a variety of activities and performance throughout the year, such as the green event at the Clash of the Quads, NYS Campus Crunch participation, Energy Campaign results, Trashion Fashion ranking, participation in the Campus Clean Up and more! Winners will be announced at the Campus Clean Up day luncheon and will take home the Green Dane Cup trophy!

Shredding Day
Join us for UAlbany's Annual Shredding Day on Monday, April 30.

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/cardstock
- Manila folders
- Paper clips
- Stapled paper
- Checkbooks

NOT to be shredded:
- Plastic ring binders
- CD’s
- Metal binder clips
Sustainability Coordinators

The Office of Sustainability is looking for representatives from every division 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. Coordinators have access to specialized professional development opportunities in the field of sustainability. This semester, the group meets on the first Tuesday of each month from 12-1 pm in AS 122. If you would like to join or nominate someone from your area, please contact the office at gogreen@albany.edu.

Green Workspace Challenge

The Green Workspace Challenge is a voluntary program for faculty and staff to self-report sustainable practices in the workplace. If you are interested in becoming Green Workspace Certified, you can email gogreen@albany.edu and find out more information here.
UAlbany Students for Sustainability
The USS group helps host various sustainability events on campus, provides community service and volunteer opportunities, and do fun earth and sustainability-related activities with students in local school districts. If you would like to get involved, please email the President of the USS group, Nicole Lvov (nlvov@albany.edu).

Greater Capital Region Food System Assessment
Capital Roots is seeking students, interns and volunteers who are interested in community-based food system research to support the Greater Capital Regional Food System Assessment in the Summer of 2018. Research opportunities are in the food system sectors of local food production, processing, distribution and consumption. Interns would be working 10-25 hours a week. Although the internship is unpaid, Capital Roots will support students who would like to take credits for their internship. Please send a cover letter expressing your research interests and availability, along with a resume, to Marissa at foodassessment@capitalroots.org. Learn more about the project here.

Internships and Fellowships with Citizens’ Climate Education
Summer 2018, Fall 2018
Do you want to do something about global warming? Are you passionate about creating social change? Do you want to develop the skills to be an effective leader, communicator, and organizer, no matter what professional field you enter? Citizens’ Climate Education seeks students who want to be change makers to join the #PutaPriceonIt campaign and activate young people on climate change. With support from CCE staff and higher ed allies, interns and fellows educate about carbon pricing, and organize peers and leaders in higher education in supporting climate solutions in Congress. Those who apply by May 15 will start part time this June, and launch their campaign in the Fall. For more information and to apply, go to https://citizensclimatehighered.org/campus-leaders/
Food and Faith

*Tuesday, April 3 from 6-7:30 pm, Interfaith Center (UAlbany)*

Food for your body and soul! Stop by for a home cooked meal and an opportunity to connect with God and with each other. Vegetarian, vegan and gluten free options are available. After dinner, you will join together for an interactive workshop experience.

Campus Conversations in Standish: Dr. Kendra Smith-Howard

*Wednesday, April 4 from 12:35-1:30 pm*

The Department of History’s Kendra Smith-Howard, Ph.D, will lead a discussion titled “Finding Nature in Unexpected Places: What Cleaning Closets and Laundry Rooms Tell us About American Environmental History”.

City of Albany Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting

*Thursday, April 5 from 5:30-7 pm, Albany City Hall Room 209*

The SAC was established to help foster more sustainable practices and unified action on climate change within the city of Albany. SAC supports and assists the Mayor’s Office of Energy and Sustainability. All are welcome to attend.

John Burroughs: The Man, The Legend

*Saturday, April 7th at 10 am and at 2 pm, Five Rivers Environmental Education Center*

Stop by for a presentation on John Burroughs (April 3, 1937-March 29, 1921). He was born in the Catskills and was a naturalist and nature essayist. Burroughs was active in the U.S. conservation movement.

DEC: Next steps for Bethlehem as a Climate Smart Community

*Thursday, April 12 from 7-8:30 pm, Bethlehem Town Hall, Delmar*

At the next meeting of Bethlehem’s Indivisible Group "Like Minds Unite": Dazzle Ekblad of the NYSDEC Office of Climate Change, will speak on Bethlehem as a certified Climate Smart Community (CSC). Ms. Ekblad will discuss the benefits of being certified as a CSC.
CAS Public Engagement Colloquium

Friday, April 20, from 3-5 pm in Husted Hall, Downtown Campus

The College of Arts & Sciences invites the entire community to participate in the CAS Public Engagement Colloquium, including a think tank and action steps. Join local leaders, faculty members and partners and to come together to address our Ezra Prentice community health and safety concerns, including air quality and traffic issues.

Symposium “Anthropocene Now! Ecology, Ethics, and Politics”

April 20-21 in the Standish Room, Science Library

An interdisciplinary symposium on the topic of the Anthropocene and climate change from the perspective of the humanities. The schedule includes three panel discussions, a keynote lecture by Professor Jane Bennett and a concluding roundtable. More information here.

Walk the Talk on Climate rally

Monday, April 23 from 12-5 pm at the New York State Capitol

On April 23, join this energetic and family-friendly march and rally outside the Capitol building that will include an opportunity to participate in a civic disobedience action. Demand #CuomoWalkTheTalk on climate and get New York #OffFossilFuels. More information here.

Citizen Science Opportunities at the Albany Pine Bush Preserve:

Wed., 4/11 from 7-8 pm - American Woodcock Survey Training
Thurs., 4/26 from 8-10 pm - FrogWatch
Tues., May 1 from 7-8 pm - Eastern Whip-poor-will Survey Training
Sun., 5/6 from 1-2:30 pm - Bumble Bee Watch

**Pre-registration** is required for all events.
Sustainability Alumni Spotlight

Kelsey Grunstra

1. **What year did you graduate?** 2012 for undergrad, 2014 for grad school
2. **What was your major/minor?** History concentrating in U.S. & Environmental History and a minor in Sociology. I received an M.S. in Educational Policy and Leadership.
3. **What was your co-curricular and student organization involvement on campus?** Mostly in the Sustainability Office! I started as a member of the Sustainability Council as a State Quad representative in 2008 and in 2009 I became a Council chair. In 2010 I also started working in the Sustainability Office as a Student Assistant. I was a member of UAlbany Students for Sustainability and was President in 2011-2012. I also dabbled in intramural volleyball for a year or two! Lastly, I was the Graduate Assistant for the office from 2012-2014.
4. **What are you doing now? Where do you live?** I’m now in Boston, working as an Operations Coordinator for the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition (MTPC). I work on a lot of community organizing, event planning, marketing and communications and social media & website management.
5. **How have you applied your experience with the sustainability movement on campus and involvement with the Office of Sustainability into your post-college life and career?** I learned so much about effective community organizing and growing a small idea into something bigger and powerful from working with Mary Ellen in the Sustainability Office. I still use so many of the skills I learned working in the Sustainability Office in my day-to-day work with MTPC, well, except for all that meter reading and bicycle maintenance =D.

The Office of Sustainability is proud of the successes of our sustainability alumni! They were essential in the early stages of the sustainability movement at UAlbany and have shaped where it is now. Take a moment to read about them in our “Sustainability Alumni Spotlight” section of the Sustainability Bulletin each month.