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This is the second year of this publicly engaged summer course that combines ecological literacy and social justice. See below for the course descriptions:

**ASOC 299:** In this course, students will learn how to analyze social justice in terms of urban ecology while exploring the definition of “urban ecosystem justice”. While learning about this definition students will explore how issues of class, race, access, equity, and fairness apply to biophysical dimensions of urban ecosystems such as soils, watersheds, biodiversity, waste cycles, and atmospheres. Students will have the opportunity to help run the Radix Ecological Sustainability Center’s EcoJustice summer youth employment program. This three credit course will run from June 24th-August 3rd on Mondays/Wednesdays from 9-12:30pm.

**ASOC 399:** In this course, students will work together with high school youth in a collaborative hands on research project as part of the Radix Ecological Sustainability Center’s EcoJustice summer youth employment program. This research project will focus on the exploration of space and place in the urban environment of the city of Albany. In doing so, students will become equipped to implement their own sociological research projects, as well as form professional relationships with young people, and encourage high school youths’ explorations of the social world. The main goal of this course is that students will learn the mechanics of combining field research within a community organization. Working with a solar panel equipped barrel-raft, tied to several other smaller floating islands is just an example of what students in this course created last year. This three credit course will run from June 24th-August 3rd on Tuesdays/Thursdays from 9-12:30pm and is paired with ASOC 299. Special permission of the instructor required to register.
Do you have an interview or special event, but no professional clothing in your closet? As a UAlbany student, you now have access to a professional clothing on campus! Purple Threads was made available to students beginning in February and remains open throughout the semester.

With a UAlbany student login and ID, you can register through Handshake to participate in events. Then, you can visit the store in the Campus Center Room 333 during their operating hours and shop for clothing. You are given the option of 3 items per semester OR a full suit. Be sure to bring in a valid student ID to check in!

Purple threads is staffed by 17 students from the Community & Public Service Program. The store is open to all students and is 100% donation-based, started with a generous grant from UAS. So far, there have been 213 student customers, 526 items of clothing given out, and 372 hours worked as of February 15th.

**Purple Threads Hours:**
- **Monday-Thursday:** 12:00 pm—2:00 pm, 4:00 pm—6:00 pm
- **Friday:** 12:00 pm—2:00 pm
Interested in helping out? Donations will be collected throughout the year. They can be dropped off at: Campus Center Connections (1st Floor), Community and Public Service Office (Social Science 112), or at the Alumni Association House. Email purplethreads@albany.edu for any items you need picked up.

What can be donated? Professional clothing that is new/gently used and clean. This includes men’s suits, women’s suits, men’s sports coats or blazers, shirts, dress pants, belt and ties, skirts, shoes, sweaters, and blazers. Items should be in excellent condition with no damage, preferably on hangers. In addition, monetary and gift card donations are accepted to purchase additional sizes and scarce items.
School of Education Professor Brett Levy and Casey Meehan conducted research on school textbooks and climate change. This study was a featured installation of a three part UAlbany News podcast series on climate change.

Dr. Brett Levy, an assistant professor of educational theory and practice in UAlbany's School of Education, and Casey Meehan, the sustainability coordinator for Western Technical College in La Crosse, Wisconsin teamed up to conduct a survey of high school textbooks used in social studies and science classrooms, focusing on how they communicated the topic of climate change. Specifically, they examined how textbooks frame the issue and the extent to which they prepare today's youth for civic participation.

Textbooks are a critical part of shaping what is taught in K—12 schools so the information they provide is vital to educating the next generation about the vulnerabilities and solutions to climate change. Their timeline started in 2007 and examined how the books communicated the causes, impacts and potential responses to climate change. Of the 16 books examined, 9 were adherent to climate science, 5 were hesitant about the science and 2 dissented from the accepted scientific consensus. Most focused on mitigation strategies with some adaption and none discussing geo-engineering options. It was noted that very little attention was given to the private sector responsibility, instead focusing on individual actions and/or governmental policy. The study showed a troubling finding that too many textbooks were not in line with the accepted scientific assessment. The duo will be conducting a second round of their study, using more current textbooks to see if this trend has been reversed.

You can listen to the podcast here.
Environmental Activism in China

On Tuesday, April 30th, UAlbany hosted a Speaker series with Shi Lihong, Producer, Director, and Founder of *Wild China Film* and one of China’s earliest environmental activists/filmmakers. She spoke on her personal experiences with Environmental Activism in China by telling first-hand stories of the some of her frightening encounters as a journalist, in addition to raising awareness about protecting their endangered wildlife. Shi Lihong is known for her exemplary work in providing access to her documentaries and raw footage to expose alarming environmental and governmental issues in China.

After studying film in Berkeley, Shi Lihong grew fascinated with observational documentaries and in 2004 returned to Yunnan, China with fellow journalists. Her film showcased the endangered snub-nosed monkeys and aimed to expose plans of logging their habitat while launching campaigns to protect endangered wildlife. The snub-nosed monkey is rare to come across in China as they dwell in the tiny part of the Yunnan Province forest in a country that is losing its wildlife. Most natives had never seen one until photographer Xi Zhinong captured the first photo in 1993. Journalists and photographers began illustrating their destroyed habitats to expose injustices.

Another of her advocacy campaigns involved the Tibetan Antelope. This species was being preyed on by poachers for their fur. Their fur is considered valuable in making shawls that sell for thousands of dollars, but three to five antelopes die for every shawl made and demand for this product nearly wiped out the species.

Shi Lihong also documented the emergence of a grassroots movement that united farmers and activists to halt a massive dam project. Her work on this can be seen in the film *Waking the Green Tiger*, available on Amazon prime.
Green Commuting Fair

*Friday, May 17th at 10AM at Tricentennial Park*

Want to learn more about sustainable commuting options in Albany? The Green Commuting event will feature information and resources, an electric vehicle ride and drive, and assistance for finding the best green commute option.

Used Book Sale

*Friday, May 17th-Sunday, May 19th at Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library*


Capital Roots’ Spring Plant Sale

*Saturday, May 18th at 9:00AM at Urban Grow Center, 594 River Street. Troy, NY*

Free Admission. Make your garden special with a unique variety of heirloom tomatoes, perennials and more. All proceeds from sale benefit Capital Roots’ programs.

Herbal Health Consultations

*Saturday, May 22nd at 9:30 am at 100 Watervliet Ave. Albany, NY*

With knowledge about the use of herbs and diet for anti-aging, women’s health issues, and helping individuals regain lost vitality, Stacey is willing to work with individuals with different health concerns. Sign up for a session at out Service Desk, or by calling (518) 482-2667

Population Health Innovation Summit

*Wednesday, June 12th at 9:00 AM at Albany Capital Center, 55 Eagle St.*

This event aims to showcase promising innovations being piloted to improve the health and well-being of New Yorkers. Details: [http://www.igniteuny.com/phis2019](http://www.igniteuny.com/phis2019)
Danny Malashock

1. What year did you graduate?
I graduated in 2010 with my B.S. from UAlbany, and in 2012 with my M.S. from UAlbany’s School of Public Health.

2. What was your major/minor?
In Undergrad, I majored in Environmental Science and minored in Geology. My grad degree was in Environmental Health Sciences.

3. What was your co-curricular and student organization involvement on campus?
I was an active member of the campus community. I was a member of UAlbany’s Residential Life and a Council Chair of the student-led campus sustainability activities. We organized meetings with interested students across campus and promoted and initiated various sustainability efforts. Our goals were to facilitate energy and resource conservation in campus life and educate students about the importance of sustainability.

4. What are you doing now? Where do you live?
I am an Environmental Health Officer (EHO) in the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) Commissioned Corps. As an officer in the USPHS, I support other federal agencies in their mission to protect public health and safety. Currently, I am assigned to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Washington D.C., where I work to promote the protection of children’s health from harmful chemicals in the environment. As a scientist at EPA, I support EPA’s scientific assessments of children’s environmental health exposure and risks, and promote the integration of children’s health in regulatory and science policy actions. In my role, I am occasionally called upon to respond to public health emergencies. Most recently in November 2017, I deployed with a team of Commissioned Corps officers to Puerto Rico in response to Hurricane Maria.

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?
My involvement with the Office of Sustainability as well as my coursework in environmental science taught me the importance of the three R’s (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle). Little lifestyle changes can go a long way to improve our environment and public health, and consequently, I have tried to adopt these practices and others into my normal daily life. I chose to pursue a career in environmental health because it brings together my interests in environmental protection and public health. Through this career, I have been fortunate to be able to work on many issues that have resulted in benefits to others and my community. Sustainability has also been an important aspect of this work, and continues to be something I consider very important both professionally and personally.