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@UAlbanyGreenScn
Searching for that last class to add to your schedule for the fall semester? Our office provides a database of courses offered at the University that includes elements of sustainability.

This fall a variety of courses are on the schedule including:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of course</th>
<th>Professor</th>
<th>Class Time</th>
<th>Modality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AECO 385 Environmental Economics</td>
<td>Chen</td>
<td>Asynchronous</td>
<td>On-line course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISEE 301 Intro to Environmental and Sustainable</td>
<td>Kim</td>
<td>T/TH 10:30 to 11:50 am</td>
<td>In person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td></td>
<td>T 3 to 5:50 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGOG 201 Environmental Analysis</td>
<td>Lapenas</td>
<td>T/TH 9 to 10:20 am</td>
<td>On line course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGOG 101 Intro to the Physical Environment</td>
<td>Buyantuev</td>
<td>Asynchronous</td>
<td>On-line course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jiang</td>
<td>Asynchronous</td>
<td>On-line course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGOG 201 Intro to the Physical Environment</td>
<td>Feingold</td>
<td>TTH 12:00_PM-01:20_PM</td>
<td>On-line course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSPH 321 The Global Environment</td>
<td>Feingold</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AATM 103 Intro to Climate Change</td>
<td>Minder</td>
<td>Asynchronous</td>
<td>On-line course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHIS 277 Culture and History of Food</td>
<td>Smith-Howard</td>
<td>Asynchronous</td>
<td>On-line course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGOG 530 Ecosystem-Based Management and</td>
<td>Breen</td>
<td>T 07:30_PM-10:20_PM</td>
<td>On-line course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate Adaptation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AATM 552 Climate Change</td>
<td>Vuille</td>
<td>MW 03:00_PM-04:20_PM</td>
<td>In-person class with ability for students to attend online</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

And students are interested in an Eco-Rep certification and earn 1 credit, see page 8 for details.

Additionally, Dr. Mary-Ellen Mallia is available to come to classes or other organization activities and discuss a variety of sustainability issues such as climate change, waste reduction, food choices and carbon emission reductions. Email gogreen@albany.edu to make an appointment.
COVID-19 has taken up much of the attention and conversation these days. The issues embedded in this pandemic and the response needed to address its transmission parallels those in the sustainability world. First, the spread of zoonotic diseases has long been a concern and the risk of this kind of transmission has increased as the developed world encroaches more and more on wildlife. Second, the combination of individual action to prevent collective harm and decisive leadership based on science is precisely the recipe we need to address climate change.

Closer to home, how does the change in operations affect our sustainability initiatives? Like the field itself, the answer is complex. In some ways, the lack of people on campus reduces our energy use, waste production and our carbon footprint associated with travel and commuting. However, those gains are short-lived and as people return to campus, we will see an increase in all of these factors.

Specifically, the Covid crisis has both decreased and increased energy usage on campus. When the crisis hit and the University decided to switch to all online classes and remote work, we were able to shutdown some lighting and mechanical systems in buildings that were unoccupied. Water use also went down significantly. However, with the return of students and some staff on campus, the energy use will increase as mechanical systems are run longer and with more ventilation. While we still strive to reduce our energy usage as it is of paramount importance to address climate change, we must prioritize the health and well-being of campus members and accept increased energy use as unavoidable to provide a safer built environment for our campus community.

This makes our efforts at energy conservation much more critical in order to help mitigate the impacts related to running air handlers longer, exchanging air more frequently and bringing in more outside air. We will be conducting our 14th annual energy campaign this semester and will be collecting pledges to reduce energy. We hope to have a large segment of our campus population participate to show our community’s commitment to a healthier planet. Stay tuned for more news on this!
Every year, millions of tons of sewage sludge and food waste are discarded in landfills where they cause serious environmental problems. Now, the University at Albany is leading a consortium to dramatically alter the way this waste is handled. The goal is to develop economically viable methods to convert wet organic waste into high value products. The consortium will be headed by Dr. Yanna Liang and includes the University of Michigan, Argonne National Laboratory and Princeton University. The Department of Energy has awarded the project $2.7 million and the research partners are adding $709,550 to bring the total budget to more than $3.4 million.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, Americans generate about 250 million tons of solid waste every year, of which about 15 percent is made up of food waste. These wastes can be anaerobically digested to produce biogas, but this conventional approach has many drawbacks. The bottlenecks can include low carbon conversion efficiency, inefficient product separation and CO2 emission.

Dr. Liang states “to address bottlenecks encountered in the field of converting wet organic wastes to commodities, we aim to develop a holistic approach by considering all steps involved in the conversion process,” Specifically, the project will seek to identify the best pretreatment method, the optimal parameters for arrested methanogenesis, the optimal design of microbial electrosynthesis, and an innovative method for production extraction. The researchers will evaluate every process in terms of economic viability and environmental impact through techno-economic analysis (TEA) and life cycle analysis (LCA). The overall process will be tested at a 5-liter and a 50-liter scale. The project aims to develop a prototype where organic wastes can be pretreated efficiently, converted to target products with high rates in continuous operation, and where the desired compounds can be separated and recovered with high efficiency.

Reducing food waste is a high impact technique for the mitigation of carbon emissions according to Project Drawdown. Being able to better address the effective diversion of food waste has many positive implications for addressing climate change.
The 50 for the Next 50 Campaign was initiated last April in honor of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. This social media campaign aimed to show the UAlbany community’s support for the environment by having 50 environmentally friendly actions posted by 50 different campus members. We more than met that goal with 67 campus members and 9 offices posting 100 actions. The most posts related to waste reduction, followed by gardening and enjoying the outdoors.

Some of the specific actions UAlbany community members took included: hiking, composting, using natural light, picking up trash, using cloth napkins, EV usage, nature walks and following plant based diets. Thank you to all who participated!
Radix Ecological Center Open House

**Sunday, August 30 from 1 to 2 pm, Radix Ecological Center, 153 Grand Street, Albany**

If you want to hold a chicken, ask questions about an aquaculture system or warm your hands over a compost pile, join the folks at Radix for a tour that will show you how easy and fun it is to incorporate sustainable practices.

Capital Region Interfaith Creation Care Coalition (CRICCC) meeting

**Monday, September 21 from 7 to 8:30 pm, contact David Cullen for location; dcullen45@hotmail.com**

The Capital Region Interfaith Creation Care Coalition was formed in the spring of 2018 to bring together faith groups to work together to protect our environment. The group is especially interested in grass roots work to mitigate and reverse global warming. The meeting rotates between several locations, so email David for the site of this meeting.

Albany Pine Bush Discovery Center program on Community Science: Snowpack Monitoring

**Wednesday, October 7 from 7 to 8 pm, online**

Learn how efforts to monitor snowpack around the preserve can help us understand wildlife population dynamics. Snow monitoring materials will be provided. Snowpack monitor volunteers will submit weekly snowpack data online from October through March. The university hosted a snowpack monitoring site on campus last year. Register [here if interested](#).
Be an Eco-Leader

Become an effective change maker for campus sustainability.

The Eco-Rep designation uses a team-based approach to enhance awareness and engagement in campus sustainability projects. The program focuses on developing skills through a series of workshops that students can apply to projects of their choice including, but not limited to waste reduction, energy conservation, sustainable food systems, alternative mobility, environmental justice and climate advocacy.

*Eco-Reps can take 1 CPSP credit for their 1st semester. If they wish to continue and apply their skills to a campus based opportunity, they can take 2 credits in a subsequent semester.

Interested? Click here to register.

The Eco-Reps will view workshop materials and meet virtually during the fall 2020 semester. For more information, please email gogreen@albany.edu.
Leadership

RA Eco-Rep Educators Needed

Residential Assistants have an opportunity to lead in climate action and environmental stewardship as well. The Eco-Rep version for RAs serve as peer educators through programming and outreach. We invite students from diverse majors and backgrounds who are committed to creating a culture of sustainability to apply. The RA Eco-reps are the liaison between resident students and the Office of Sustainability.

The reps will be responsible for:

- Attending bi-weekly zoom meetings
- Follow the UAlbany Green Scene on social media
- Create a bulletin board or other communication at respective living residences to promote ways for residents to be sustainable and get involved in events
- Relay sustainability information at the all-staff meetings
- Participate in sustainability programs and events

Last year our RA Eco-Reps participated in:

- Global Climate Strike
- Power Dialog
- Happy Birthday Earth Day Posting
- Recyclemania Tabling
- Game Day Recycling
- Eco Careers Virtual Conference

Are you an RA or housing manager and interested in becoming an Eco-Rep and helping to spread the word about sustainable practices? Join us!

Shout out to last year’s reps: Jonathan Acevedo, Lauren Chu, Ewan Edobor, Dan Fausak, Chidiogo Igboekwe, Yupha Lwin, Devin O’Brien, Milan Pfister, Cat Ramos, Breana Rawlins, Mario Romano, Emily Ruffen and Bria Taylor. And Emily Cheung for coordinating the program!
1. What year did you graduate?
2017

2. What was your major/minor?
My graduate research was conducted under the guidance of Dr. Marina A. Petrukhina and resulted in the first X-ray diffraction studies of highly sensitive compounds of multiply-charged, nonplanar and planar polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).

3. What was your co-curricular and student organization involvement on campus?
UAAlbany Graduate Students for Environmental Health and Sustainability organization (Apr 2015 – May 2017). My focus was promoting green and sustainable chemistry.
Secretary for UAlbany Graduate Society for Sciences organization (Sep 2014 – May 2016).
Our Society's goal was to educate UAlbany graduate students about alternative career choices as well as network with graduate student in similar fields, Physics, Atmospheric Science, Bio-medical Science, Biology and Chemistry.
I also received a Sustainability Innovation Grant (Apr 2015) from the Office of Environmental Sustainability which allowed me to attend the Green Chemistry Symposium at the University of Toronto Canada May 13-15 2015.

4. What are you doing now? Where do you live?
I work remotely from Schenectady for a nonprofit organization dedicated to green chemistry education, called Beyond Benign. Feel free to pull information about my current position from either website: https://www.beyondbenign.org/people/natalie-oneil/
https://www.linkedin.com/in/natalieoneil/

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 experience impacted my graduate studies and post-college career path. The Sustainability Office supported my travel to learn about Green Chemistry from experts at the University of Toronto. This exposed me to a completely new way of practicing sustainability through chemistry, as green chemistry by definition is the design of chemical products and processes that reduce and/or eliminate the use or generation of hazardous substances. A sustainable future can only be achieved if the foundation of products around us are built sustainably, and that is where green chemistry comes in! Green chemistry invention has the power to improve people’s lives by intentionally designing more sustainable, safer, less-hazardous molecular building blocks and creating inherently safer products and processes. I pursued a one-year certification course in Green Chemistry and Chemical Stewardship, attended the American Chemical Society (ACS) Green Chemistry & Sustainable Energy Summer School in 2016 and became actively involved in the Network of Early-Career Sustainable Scientists and Engineers (NESSE). I worked at Utica College as both an adjunct and Visiting Assistant Professor of Chemistry while finishing my Ph.D. studies. I am currently the Higher Education Program Manager for Beyond Benign were I support 66 global higher education institutions who are united around a shared vision to: expand the community of green chemists at their institutions, grow departmental resources, improve connections to industry and job opportunities in green chemistry and collaborate to affect systemic and lasting change in chemistry education.

The Office of Sustainability is proud of the successes of our alumni! They were essential in the early stages of the sustainability movement at UAlbany and have shaped where it is now.