

Environmental Studies

newsletter



February/March 2008 | Volume 3, Issue 4 | Green Mountain College | www.greenmtn.edu

GMC Flies Earth Flag

Fall 2007 Delicate Balance classes focused on the idea of civic engagement and responsibility. As the centerpiece of each class, students explored engagement in-depth through a paper or project. Four students, from different Delicate sections, decided to examine civic engagement with the world community. As part of their project, they proposed flying the Earth flag with the American flag in front of Pollock Hall, GMC's administration building. The earth flag was created to remind people that we are all part of the world community, and that we need to take care of the planet that sustains life. The students, Allie Kraushaar, Cait Berry, Nate Davis, and Jess Lutrus (pictured above) presented their idea to their classes and then to the Faculty Council. The Faculty unanimously endorsed the proposal at their December meeting, and administrative support quickly followed. Today the flag flies as a symbol of GMC's commitment to the global community through responsiveness to our social and natural environments.



GMC is participating in RecycleMania again this year, from now until April 6.

Focus the Nation Event

On January 31, Green Mountain College joined colleges and universities across the country for a day dedicated to raising awareness about global climate change.

The event, called “Focus the Nation,” was organized to “link students and citizens with political leaders, and create a serious, sustained discussion about clean energy solutions.” Thousands of colleges and universities staged similar days of action.

Here at GMC, the day included dozens of faculty speakers as well as a roundtable discussion, a performance from the Bread and Puppet Theater, and a potluck dinner. Topics of the faculty talks included “The Moral Politics of Climate Change,” “Cow Power: Is This Crap an Energy Solution,” and “Making Change with Media: A Five Minute Guide to Eco-Publishing.”

The College also welcomed a panel of climate change scholars, elected officials, and members of the media for a roundtable discussion. Participants included: George Crombie, secretary of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources; Ernie Pomerleau, chair of the Vermont Governor’s Commission on Climate Change; David Moats, editorial page editor of the Rutland Herald; Tom Stokes, coordinator of the Climate Crisis Coalition; Erik Hoffner, coordinator of the Orion Grassroots Network; Alan Betts, a Pittsford-based atmospheric scientist; Betsy Hardy, administrator of Vermont Interfaith Power and Light; Paul Markowitz, Cool Communities Coordinator for the Vermont chapter of the Sierra Club; Whitney Leighton, staff assistant to U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders; and Katie Manaras, assistant to Vermont Senate President Pro Tem Peter Shumlin.

Greening Fund Projects Approved

The results are in for the Student Campus Greening Fund vote: five proposals will receive the full amount requested for a total of \$28,988. The money will be used to construct a campus yurt, install additional bike racks, purchase outdoor recycling bins, use bio-diesel in campus maintenance equipment, and upgrade the alternative energy systems that power the farm greenhouse. A record two hundred and sixty-nine students — far more than in previous years — voted during one week in December. The lead individuals for the proposals — Lee Robinson, Dustin Bowman, Megan Dupille, Joe Bossen, and Liz Moran — are expected to implement their projects throughout the spring 2008 semester.

Congratulations to all the funded applicants! Special thanks to SCGF Directors Jane Engelman and Tom Wheeler for their hard work with the fund this semester, and to Christina-Alexa Liakos, Amanda Dunn, and Rob Pudner for their contributions as the Fund Loving Committee. Students interested in future involvement with SCGF should contact any of these students.

Upcoming Speakers

Dr. John Peterson (Pete) Myers, co-author of “Our Stolen Future” and founder of Environmental Health News, spoke on Monday, February 25.

Dr. Fran Bagenal, professor of astrophysical and planetary sciences at the University of Colorado, Boulder, delivered the annual Sophomore Lecture on Tuesday, February 26.

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