

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2006

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FALL BLOCK COURSE

Former Yale University Executive Chef, John Turenne spoke last Monday, February 20th, on the topic of “Buying Local and College Dining”. John Turenne is nationally recognized for his innovative leadership approach in an extensive senior management and culinary career that has encompassed over 25 years in the food industry, including designing, developing and implementing the nationally recognized Yale Sustainable Food Project. He is president and founder of Sustainable Food Systems, LLC, a company that “helps organizations and institutions make social, ecological and delicious differences in their business, in their communities and in our world through the way they think about food”.



John is also consulting with GMC faculty for the Fall '06 Sustainable Food and Agriculture block course: Food, Agriculture, and Community Development in the Northeast. Open to all GMC and Eco League students, this is a nine-credit, field-based, interdisciplinary exploration of the food system in the Northeast, with a special focus on how we can continue efforts in building a “sustainable food system” on campus. Combining courses in Sustainable Community Development, Sustainable Farming Systems, and an anthropological inquiry into our regional food habits, Philip Ackerman-Leist, Jacob Park, and Eleanor Tison will have students confront the efficiencies, long-term costs, and challenges of our regional food system. In addition to commodity-based analyses of food products, students will generate a proposal to further GMC's efforts to combine our environmental liberal arts mission with community food purchasing and consumption.

CONTACT US

If you have news, announcements, or events to publicize in the ES Newsletter, please e-mail materials to:

esnewsletter@greenmtn.edu

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ES INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES SAMPLER

Position: Environmental Education Intern (2 positions)

Location: Acadia National Park, ME

Dates: April-June or September-November

Positions: trip leaders, camp instructors, LIT coordinator/Pre-K instructor

Locations: NH Audubon Camps

Dates: June 19– August 18

Visit: www.nhaudubon.org for full listings

Position: Native Plant Nursery Intern

Dates: April 15 – November 15

Position: Water Chestnut Field Coordinator

Location: West Haven, Vermont

Dates: June 6 – September 15

Contact: pmarangelo@tnc.org

Position: Tree Monitoring Intern

Dates: May 15 - June 30 (Spring) OR August 15 –October 1 (Fall)

Position: Education Intern (paid)

Location: Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden

Dates: May 31 – August 18

Position: Botanic Garden Intern (paid)

Dates: June 5 - August 5, 2006

Location: Denver Botanic Gardens, Colorado

Position: Animal Care Intern

Location: Irvine Nature Center, Stevenson, MD

** For full listings and more information contact Renee Beaupre-White or any ES Faculty member, and see the bulletin boards in Terrace Hall

GREENING THE CAMPUS

The Student Campus Greening Fund (SCGF) is a student-run program that oversees a fund comprised of \$30 per student. This money comes out of the activities fee that all Green Mountain students pay at the beginning of the year. The fund is designed to help implement important greening initiatives on our campus. Students write proposals, vote on proposals, and work through the projects on their own...the SCGF is only the monetary means to make these projects possible. For spring 2006, the deadline for proposals is March 20th. However, if proposal writers would like to have their proposals reviewed by a committee of faculty, staff, and students before the deadline, the draft deadline is March 3rd. Please keep your eyes peeled and your ears open for more information concerning SCGF. It is your green and your greening responsibility. For interested students, the application can be found in the Student Life office or on the SCGF website: www.greenmtn.edu/senate/SGCF

THE ASIAN RURAL INSTITUTE

The Asian Rural Institute is a grassroots training center for Asian and African rural leaders. They focus primarily on sustainable (organic) agriculture. ARI is located an hour (by bullet train) north of Tokyo, Japan. They house international volunteers through the year, especially during the summer, and they produce 80% of their own food. If you would like to learn more about volunteering or visiting this innovative program, please contact Professors Heather Keith or Steve Fesmire or visit www.ari-edu.org.

The Asian Rural Institute
442-1 Tsukinokizawa
Nasushiobara-shi, Tochigi-ken 329-2703
Japan



ES SUMMER OPPORTUNITY

ES IN THE FIELD

The Soil Ecology Block (GLG 2031 and BIO 2032/3031) visited the UVM soil testing lab on February 13 to observe the methods of extraction and analysis they use to process large numbers of soil samples.

In early April they plan to take a weekend field trip to Cape Cod to sample soils of the sandy coastal plain along gradients of moisture and salinity. And on April 29 they will examine a wide range of soil types in Vermont with Thom Villars, US Department of Agriculture Soil Scientist, on a trip that begins at low elevation in the Connecticut River Valley and ends on Killington Peak.

ES INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES SAMPLER

Position: Naturalist Intern
(5 positions)
Location: Lee Vining, CA

Position: Organic Gardening and
Marketing Intern
Location: Glynwood Center, Cold
Spring, NY

Position: Environmental Education
Intern
Location: Tanglewood 4H Camp and
Learning Center, Lincolnville, ME

Position: Wildlife, policy, and education
intern (6 positions)
Location: Conservancy of Southwest
Florida

Position: Summer Environmental Intern
(2 Positions)
Location: Upper Raritan Watershed
Association, Bedminster, NJ

Position: Renewable Energy Business
Development Intern
Location: Co-Op Power, Greenfield, MA

Position: Environmental Education
Interns (6 Positions)
Location: Teton Science Schools, Jackson
Hole, WY

Position: Farm Intern
Location: Waltham, MA

** For some more internships, visit:
<http://www.oriononline.org/ics>

ECO LEAGUE SPOTLIGHT

ECO LEAGUE

The Eco League is a consortium of colleges that specialize in environmental learning. Green Mountain students can study for up to two semesters at other Eco League schools. Visit www.ecoleague.org.

Alaska Pacific University- Anchorage, Alaska
College of The Atlantic- Bar Harbor, Maine
Antioch College- Yellow Springs, Ohio
Northland College- Ashland, Wisconsin
Prescott College- Prescott, Arizona

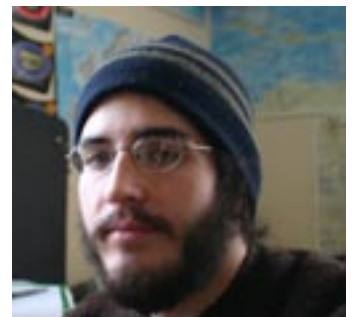
COLLEGE OF THE ATLANTIC

College of the Atlantic, located in Bar Harbor, Maine, has a unique approach to education: all students graduate with one degree- a degree in Human Ecology. All students fashion their own course of study, combining classes in all fields along with a dose of independent work and off-campus internships. Before students graduate, they complete a project that is a culmination of their work here. Other distinguishing characteristics: COA is located right next to Acadia National Park and the school is nationally recognized for its award winning food. However, make note that COA has a unique method of applying credit to completed course work, and their academic calendar is made up of three ten-week terms, Fall: September-November, Winter: January-March, and Spring: April-June. (www.coa.edu)

CURRENT ECO LEAGUE STUDENT

-Sophomore Benjamin Zimmerman is visiting this semester from Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin.

"I am focusing on Environmental Studies, concentrating on Environmental Education and sustainable agriculture. I am also very interested in Peace and Global Studies. Before I started at Northland, I was familiar with the Eco League and knew that I would want to take advantage of it. This year I needed a change of scenery and thought that GMC would be ideal for that. I am really enjoying spending time on the farm and in my classes, so between those things, the experience has been worth it. Northland is roughly the same size as Green Mountain in terms of students, however more students at Northland live off campus, providing a very different community feeling. Being that GMC is relatively new to its environmental focus I can see many differences in comparison to Northland. However, I am pleased with the effort that students put forward to improve the campus community and the school's devotion to environmentalism."



ES INTERNSHIP- NICOLE PERKINS

"I did my senior internship at the Zoo in Forest Park, Springfield Massachusetts. While interning I worked in animal care and education. It was an awesome and life changing experience."



COURSE SPOTLIGHT



There's nothing as traditional as hunkering down and watching a movie with some friends – except when those friends are 3,000 miles away. But that's what this semester's

Environmental Documentaries class, taught by Greg Brown, is doing.

The II-student class will be watching and discussing about 30 environmental documentaries this semester in conjunction with another class of students at Alaska Pacific University who are studying much of the same material.

The groups are two of the first to utilize the Eco-League as a means for academic collaboration and exchange without actually sending students to and fro across the continent. "We're not exchanging students, we're exchanging ideas," said Professor Brown, "It's a little less costly and doesn't require the same commitment, but we still get that sharing of ideas and perspectives."

Because APU's semester is structured differently from Green Mountain's, last week was the first week students started communicating between the two schools, using distance-learning software called Moodle which APU uses in many of its classes.

Caitlin Berry, a first-year communications major, was one of the first students in the GMC class to start using Moodle. She got used to a similar type of learning last semester in the Food, Society & Environment class taught by Vangie Blust, in which Green Mountain students participated in an email exchange with students from Korea.

"It's really interesting," she said. "You get to mix and mingle with other groups, sometimes even other countries, and you get a different opinion on the things you're studying."

William Shoemaker, GMC Journal

CONFERENCE OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE EDUCATORS

Philip Ackerman-Leist attended the first national conference of sustainable agriculture educators and organizations at Asilomar Conference Center in California. Philip was one of six presenters at the conference, at which he gave a presentation on "Sustainable Agriculture and the Liberal Arts: Cultivating Interdisciplinary Collaboration." This conference gave faculty, college farm managers, students in sustainable agriculture programs, and representatives from various NGO's the opportunity to compare curricula, roles of college farms, and ideas on developing a national agenda for sustainable agriculture education. Philip returned with a much better understanding of how the GMC Farm and Food Project and the ES concentration in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Production fit into the broader world of higher education across the country.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUE MORSE- ON KEEPING TRACK
-Thursday, March 2nd- 7:30 in the Gorge

THE VERMONT GREEN JOB & INTERNSHIP FAIR
-March 15th- 12:00-4:30- Billings Student Center, UVM Central Campus, Burlington

FOREST HEALTH INFORMATION MEETING
- March 29- Elks Club in Hartford, Vermont.
This meeting will last 8:30-3:15 but there are different topical meetings scheduled throughout (Forest Tent Caterpillars, Old Growth in Vermont, Monocultures in Forestry, etc.)