

Environmental Studies

newsletter



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Green Mountain College Receives National Sustainability Award

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) presented its annual Campus Sustainability Leadership Awards Friday, September 7, with Green Mountain College winning the 'Under 1,000' category. The awards recognize institutions that have demonstrated an outstanding overall commitment to sustainability in their governance and administration, curriculum and research, operations, campus culture, and community outreach.

“We had a very competitive pool of applicants this year, so winning one of these awards is a major achievement,” said Tom Kimmerer, the Executive Director of AASHE.

Jesse Pyles, GMC's Coordinator of Service Learning & Sustainability, and Jane Engleman '08 (pictured above), received the Sustainability Award at AASHE's award ceremony in Muncie, Indiana, where they also presented a poster on the Student Campus Greening Fund. They drove to the conference in the College's Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle.

The awards are endorsed by the Higher Education Associations Sustainability Consortium (HEASC), a network of 13 leading higher education associations with a commitment to advancing sustainability within their constituencies as well as in the system of higher education. The award winners were selected by pools of campus sustainability experts assembled by AASHE.

Convocation Speaker Dr. Anthony Cortese

Dr. Anthony D. Cortese was the keynote speaker at this year's Convocation. Dr. Cortese is president of Second Nature, a nonprofit organization with a mission to make healthy, just, and sustainable action a foundation of learning in higher education. He is also a co-director of the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment, and co-founder of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE).

News

Plug-In Hybrid Vehicle Research Project Begins

You may have seen a white Toyota Prius with the “plug ‘n go” logo parked in front of Pollock over the past weeks and wondered what it’s all about. The vehicle is part of a joint research project between Green Mountain College and Central Vermont Public Service (CVPS) to investigate the performance of plug-in hybrid vehicles here in Vermont. Professor Steven Letendre is overseeing the project.

The car, outfitted with a plug to allow charging from an electrical outlet, uses state-of-the-art lithium ion battery technology to replace a heavy inefficient battery. This allows the car to travel longer distances on electricity from the power grid. The car’s performance data will be collected and analyzed by Letendre and student research assistant, Darryl Bray ‘11.



GMC will be conducting research for Central Vermont Public Service on this new plug-in hybrid electric vehicle.

Prof. Jennifer Sellers will be the first Green Mountain employee to drive the vehicle. Sellers will drive the vehicle back and forth to Poultney from her home in Middlebury, about 45 miles each way. Later in the project, a GMC employee who lives closer to Poultney will test the vehicle to help better understand how the length of a daily commute impacts the fuel economy of the plug ‘n go hybrid.

Speakers

Ethnobotanist Dr. Gary Nabhan

Green Mountain College welcomed world-renowned biologist, author, and MacArthur “Genius” Fellow, Dr. Gary Paul Nabhan as our visiting scholar for the Fall 2007 Master of Science in Environmental Studies residency. As part of the residency, Dr. Nabhan gave a keynote talk titled “Place-based Foods of Maple Nation - Renewing America’s Food Traditions.”

Nabhan discussed the risks facing many of the nation’s wild and domesticated edible plant and animal species. His talk examined how these threats to biodiversity bring losses in traditional ecological and culinary knowledge, as well as a region’s cultural heritage.

In addition to being one of the nation’s leading ethnobotanists, Dr. Nabhan is Director of the Center for Sustainable Environments at Northern Arizona University and a leading voice in both regional food initiatives and native plant agriculture conservation. He is Founder of RAFT (Renewing America’s Food Traditions) and co-founder of Native Seeds/SEARCH.

Known for his insight, humor, and willingness to cross disciplinary, linguistic, and ethnic boundaries, Gary has won numerous awards for his work, including the Pew Scholarship for Conservation and the Environment in 1991 and the John Burroughs Medal for Nature Writing in 1986. In addition to his groundbreaking study of indigenous Sonoran horticulture,

The Desert Smells like Rain (1982), Nabhan has published more than fifteen other books that weave together the topics of food, ecology, culture, and story. His 1997 collection of essays, *Cultures of Habitat*, has been used in a variety of classes at Green Mountain College.

Nabhan’s presentation was part of a 4-day residency at GMC, during which he worked with graduate students in the Master of Science in Environmental Studies program.

Will Raap of Gardener's Supply Company

Will Raap visited the College and presented the lecture "From Global Warming to Global Greening: Entrepreneurship at the Intersection of Economy and Ecology." Raap's presentation was part of a 4-day residency at GMC, during which he worked with graduate students in the College's MBA in Sustainable Business program. He led discussions about the opportunities and challenges associated with effective sustainable business organizations and careers.

Will Raap founded Gardener's Supply in 1983 after an accomplished career with many major corporations. Raap is chairman of the Board for the Intervale Foundation, and he sits on the boards of the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund, Vermont Partnership for Environmental Technology and Science, Vermont Sustainable Agriculture Advisory Council, and Living Technologies, Inc.



Students choose their steps carefully as they hike up to Devil's Landing in Utah's Zion National Park. Prof. John VanHoesen took 15 students on a tour of western national parks this summer for his class titled "Geology of Western National Parks."

Feedforth International Conference

Interested in participating in an international conference with universities in Japan and Guatemala?

GMC will join the Feedforth 2007 conference through our teleconferencing system. The conference theme is "How does your research change my life?" and focuses on interdisciplinary approaches to solving the problems of the 21st Century.

When: Wednesday 10/24 and Thursday 10/25 from 8:30 pm until early morning

Where: Terrace 124

There will be coffee, tea, and snacks provided by the Environmental Studies department.

For more information go to:
www.feedforth.org

James Martin Presented First Thomas L. Benson Lecture

The man who Computerworld Magazine once ranked as the 4th most influential individual in the world of computer science gave the inaugural presentation of the Thomas L. Benson Lecture Series at GMC this fall. Dr. James Martin, who writes on the social and economic impact of computers and technology, gave a talk entitled "The Meaning of the 21st Century." This is Martin's second visit to campus. In 2002, he gave the Commencement address and was awarded an honorary doctorate.

Martin has written more than one hundred books, including the Pulitzer Prize nominee, *The Wired Society*.

The Benson Lecture Series, named in honor of former Green Mountain College president, Thomas L. Benson, aims to bring speakers of national and international significance to the College campus. Benson was president from 1994-2002 and was the architect of the College's environmental liberal arts mission.



Late July means haying for the GMC Farm Crew. Students Joe Bossen, Allie Kraushaar, Irene Holak, and Annie Mauhs-Pugh worked the fields this summer.

Important Greening Fund Dates for the Fall

Meetings held at 1:30 pm – in the Yes! Coffeehouse

Sept. 27th Informational Meeting and Draft Ideas

Oct. 11th Check-in (Open meeting on application progress)

Oct. 25th Check-in (questions before Draft Deadline)

Nov. 1st DRAFT DEADLINE – Grant Drafts due to Jesse’s Office (310 Main St.)

TBA FEEDBACK MEETING (Questions about Draft Comments)

Nov. 15th Final Proposals Due in Jesse’s Office

Dec. 3rd Voting Begins

Dec. 9th Voting Ends

Dec. 13th Funded Grants Announced

Local Food Events

For six consecutive Wednesdays, that began Wednesday, September 26, the Dining Hall will be serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner selections with ingredients provided by regional farms and businesses. As part of the program, every Wednesday evening will feature guest speakers and workshops on topics including crop origins, localvores, food preservation, and the Slow Foods movement.

EnvironmentalStudies newsletter

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Contact Us

Please send information you wish to have published in the ES Newsletter- including artwork, poetry, and photography to: esnewsletter@greenmtn.edu

Special Thanks to the GMC Journal