



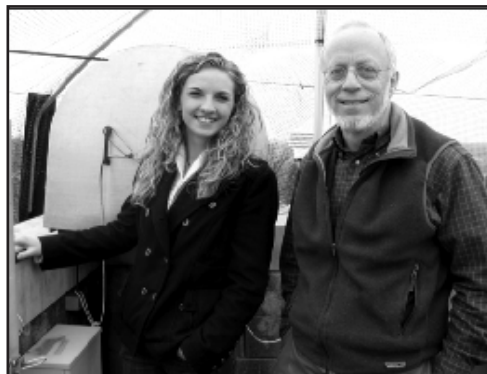
## GLCA grant assists green projects on campus

**Anna Petterson**

Class of 2010

With funding from the Great Lakes Colleges Association, Denison awarded four small grants to implement innovative green projects on campus. Denison students Lauren Sabo, '11, and Holly Burdorff, '11, worked together with Joyce Meredith, Chief of Staff in the Office of the President, to create the "Night Light Watchman/woman" initiative.

Their project began in the Fall with the hiring of two students who are responsible for patrolling the buildings on the Academic Quad after hours to turn off lights in unoccupied classrooms, bathrooms, and offices, while also documenting the energy use. The program will be able to provide the University and the Campus



Environmental Studies minor sophomore Juliana Lisuk and Professor Tod Froelking stand next to one of the wind data collectors on campus.

Sustainability Committee with a report on energy use and reduction over the course of the semester.

The goal of the project is to decrease the amount of energy consumption on Denison's campus,

which has the added potential of saving the University a significant amount of money on utility bills. Another funded project was designed by sophomore Environmental Studies majors Nicki Jimenez, and Juliana Lisuk along with Geoscience professor Tod Froelking.

Considering Denison's main source of power is coal-fired power plants, Nicki and Juliana took the initiative to explore wind power energy and Denison's potential for using it as an alternative energy source. The funds purchased two anemometers which collect wind data on top of Fellows Hall and one on top of the Olin science building.

The devices measure wind speed and direction data which the

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## Denison's Campus Theme: Consumption

**Katherine Sylvia**

Class of 2012

If you've been anywhere near campus this year, you will have noticed that Denison has been going a little "sustainable-crazy" lately. From the trash tower to trayless Tuesdays in the dining halls, Denisonians are serious about the new Go Green Big Red mantra. Complementing these efforts is the official 2009-2010 campus theme of Consumption. A series of speakers and special events have highlighted how our consumption habits reflect our attitudes about community, power, equity and opportunity.

The consumption-themed convocation series opened in the fall with a lecture by Frances Moore Lappé and her lecture titled "Why Hunger in a World of Plenty?" which explored

the issue of food distribution, and the fact that there is so much hunger throughout the world despite there being enough food for the global population.

Then came Nicholas Mirzoeff, a professor of Media Culture and Communication at NYU, who spoke about the topic of Thinking Globally: Counterinsurgency, Climate Change, and the Consumption of Culture. The Black Studies Speaker Series touched upon issues of consumption and its effect on race, ethnicity and class in its theme of Politics of Consumption: Countering Race, Ethnicity, Gender and Class Commodification.

This semester's schedule for Denison's Consumption Theme started out with a screening of Annie Leonard's video "The Story of Stuff"

and a follow up Q&A with the star herself. I had the opportunity to have Leonard come and speak in my People and the Environment class. She talked about how she got started in the trash business and how she stays so optimistic that the world can change its ways of consuming STUFF.

The Human Rights Film Festival featured a Consumption-themed film with the screening of CRUDE, the award-winning documentary film about oil extraction in Ecuador and the environmental and human health problems that have been left in its wake. Environmental Studies department Program Manager Susan Studer King moderated a discussion after the film.

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# Construction of Trash Tower kicks off Denison's first foray into National Recyclemania Tournament

**Danielle Isaacson**

Class of 2012

Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup> marked the beginning of the 2010 RecycleMania competition which runs for 10 weeks until March 27<sup>th</sup>. This is the first time Denison has participated in RecycleMania since its start in 2001. We are one of 607 participating schools that are ranked according to several categories including who collects the largest amount of recyclables per capita, the largest amount of total recyclables, the least amount of trash per capita, and the highest recycling rate.

Denison is in the competition division, which means that weekly results are tracked and in addition to being eligible to win a given category. As of the print deadline, Denison was in 26<sup>th</sup> place nationally, which is five places lower than the week before (21<sup>st</sup> place), but ranks #1 of Ohio colleges!

Information about the importance of reducing, reusing, and recycling is ubiquitous. Participation in

this competition, nevertheless, has shed light on how little is actually recycled. In the spirit of RecycleMania Denison conducted a "waste audit" (aka Trash

displayed in a seven foot tall Trash Tower in the Slayter Student Union. It was a striking visual—and olfactory—display of glass, cardboard, paper, and aluminum cans that *could have* and *should have* been recycled.

Universities are like small cities, using enormous amounts of energy and producing tons of waste. Thus the goal of RecycleMania is to increase awareness and inspire a change away from wasteful habits on campuses across the United States, with motivation rallied by the friendly competition. Other than the innovative idea of a trash sort, which will hopefully take place again, Denison has been posting flyers and using the Go Green Big Red Facebook Page to advertise RecycleMania and to encourage more recycling. Other campuses are getting creative too. Connecticut College, a top RecycleMania contender in 2009, has created a very creative and colorful set of posters and videos featuring students going crazy with recycling "mania."



Denison students sort through trash barrels to separate out recyclable materials from trash during Recyclemania.

Sort) on January 28<sup>th</sup>. Green Team volunteers and students in Dr. Sarah Harris' People & the Environment class literally sifted through bags of trash to separate recyclable materials from the garbage.

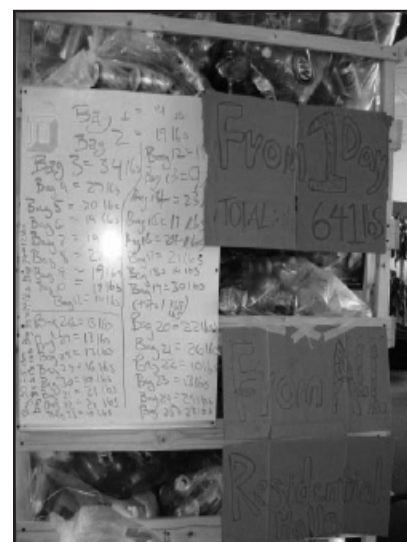
In all, 641 pounds of recyclables were recovered and then



The 7 foot trash tower erected in Slayter Union to display recyclable materials pulled from residence hall dumpsters.

## THE STATS

Week	Pounds per Person	Total Pounds Recycled
1	3.28	9,233
2	2.82	7,920
3	3.04	8,540
4	2.13	5,995
5	2.42	6,789
6	3.04	8,558
7	3.73	10,483
8	2.98	8,383
9	1.80	5,071



A wideboard on the side of the trash tower logs the weight of each bag of recyclable material collected.

# Denison Hosts Sustainability Conference

## Cristin Mustillo

Class of 2010

In late January, more than 100 students, faculty and administrators attended the conference “Sustainability in the Great Lakes Colleges Association: What works? What’s next?” at Denison. As a collaborative effort between Denison, The College of Wooster, and Kenyon College, the conference featured panel discussion on such topics as student organizations, campus facilities, IT, food service, and financing as they pertain to the environment and sustainability.

The information sessions were fascinating, but the highlight of the day for many was lunch — the most sustainable meal served in Denison’s history! All ingredients were locally sourced, and by utilizing

re-usable plates, silverware, and cloth napkins, waste was kept to an absolute minimum. In fact, all that remained fit into a small box which Kenyon College offered to compost, making it a zero-waste event. Denison’s President Dale Knobel addressed the important role of higher education in sustainability initiatives. He pointed out the difference between “acting green” and “being green.” He expressed his concern about the challenges we all face along with his confidence in the ability of like-minded institutions to take on tough issues and make good decisions. “We are walking down this road together,” he said.

Overall, the conference provided an opportunity for attendees to share current projects, future

goals, and ideas for increasing sustainability on a college campus. Representatives from seven different colleges attended the conference, which allowed for interesting and useful networking opportunities with peers at sister institutions. In the wake of the conference, Denison faculty members have proposed the idea of a campus community garden after learning of a similar successful project at The College of Wooster. Following Denison’s recent hire of a sustainability coordinator, in addition to an increase in available grant funds for student environmental initiatives and the inspiration of this conference, we can surely look forward to many more exciting environmental ideas and actions on Denison’s campus.

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In February, Juliet Schor, Professor of Sociology at Boston College and a co-founder of the Center for a New American Dream, an organization devoted to transforming North American lifestyles to make them more ecologically and socially sustainable, gave a guest lecture.

The second part to this two part series on Consumer Economics “Why was Enough Never Enough?” by Stephen Marglin, the Walter S Barker Chair in the Department of Economics at Harvard University. Marglin addressed how market relationships erode community, and he argued that thinking like an economist creates a precarious platform for economic recovery. Recovery attempts are doomed to fail if we continue to think about economic recovery only in terms of market relations.

On February 25<sup>th</sup>, Scott Russell Sanders, the recently retired Distinguished Chair of English at Indiana University, came to Denison to present “Caring for Creation,”

a major theme in his recent book *A Conservationist Manifesto*. He presented a daunting and inevitable challenge that our culture must face: switching from a culture based on consumption to a culture based on caretaking.

On April 14<sup>th</sup> at 8pm in Swasey Chapel, Denison can look forward to a visit from Michal Pollan, one of *Newsweek*’s recently named top new thought leaders of the past decade for his contributions to food writing. Pollan’s talk, titled “In Defense of Food: an Omnivore’s Solution,” will relate back to his book *The Omnivore’s Dilemma*, which focuses on the question of where our food truly comes from.

ENVS will welcome two more special consumption-themed speakers this semester. In late March, environmental activist and filmmaker Curt Ellis will visit ENVS classes in addition to offering a public talk and screening of *Big River*, his film that examines water pollution created

by industrial row crop agriculture. Ellis is the co-producer and star of the documentary film *King Corn*, a critically acclaimed documentary which provides a witty yet insightful glimpse into nation’s food system--as seen through the cultivation of one acre of corn in rural Iowa.

At the conclusion of Earth Month 2010, John Frances, the famous Planet Walker, will traverse the Denison campus part of his latest cross country trek. Dr. Francis has walked across the U.S., and across South America from Venezuela to Argentina in order to raise awareness of environmental issues.

The 2009-2010 campus theme of consumption has brought many great events and thinkers to campus. Students have been able to realize how their daily actions are felt around the world, in addition to how they can improve their habits of consumption. Denison now has new tools to help it work towards a more sustainable future.

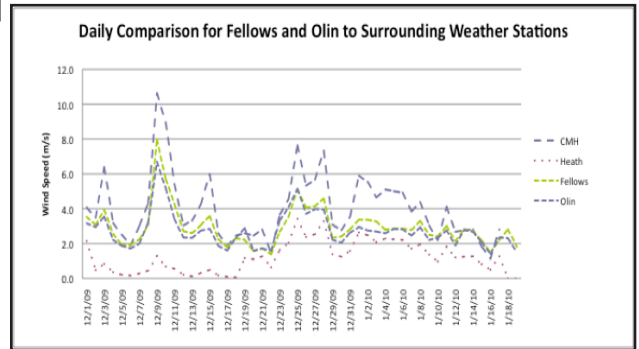
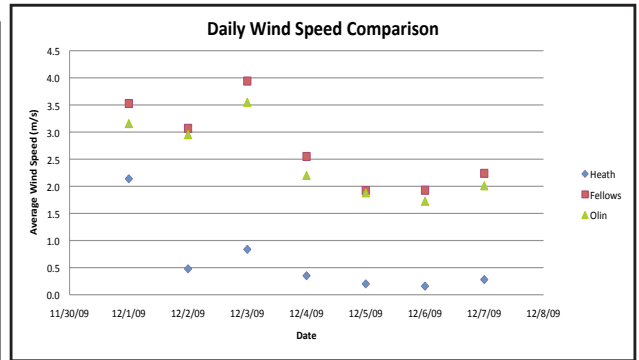
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students then analyze and compare to data gathered from weather stations in the region. Preliminary wind data indicate that small wind turbines in select locations on Denison's campus could be viable.

Small scale wind generation installations could provide a much cleaner source of electricity and offset at least part of the electricity used that is currently generated from coal. Step by step, Denison is becoming more sustainable and environmentally aware.



(Above) one of the anemometers used to collect data on campus. (Below) an example wind turbine built by Honeywell which has a threshold of 2 miles per hour.



Layout Design by Sam Keenan, Class of 2010