

Environmental Issues

Environmental Studies Program

Denison University

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Sustainability Efforts on Campus

Many Denison students are taking action for the environment this semester. This article is a summary of the many different efforts that are currently underway on campus.

The junior Environmental Practicum class project this semester is looking at – and hopefully improving – our campus’s sustainability. The class has done a mini “audit” of the energy use, food, heating and air systems, and purchasing of goods on campus. They are also setting up the application process for the Sustainability Venture Fund to implement future sustainability projects.

Senior Environmental Studies majors are working on a variety of environmental projects (see chart below). Right now, the students are gathering background information and setting objectives.

Focus the Nation is a national campaign that faculty and students are collaboratively working on to increase awareness of global climate change and put pressure on the presidential candidates for 2008. The entire campus will focus on global climate change on Focus the Nation Day, January, 31 2008. A speaker will be brought in to evoke dialogue and events will be planned to raise awareness about this issue as well as other environmental dilemmas.

Green Team will be coming out with a news-

letter called the DUMP to raise awareness of actions on campus and about environmental issues in general. They are also leading Water Wars, a competition between residential dorms to reduce water usage, which is happening the entire month of October.

The Denison Progressive Alliance, which brings together social justice and environmental groups on campus, is focusing on a bottled water campaign. They are tabling in Slayter to raise awareness about the negative impact of the bottled water industry and encouraging students to end their purchase of the product by carrying nalgenes.

Animal Liberation League is continuing the national paper campaign led by ForestEthics. They recently announced Sears/Land’s End as the next company they are urging to quit using paper sourced from the old-growth Boreal forest for their catalogs.

There is also an effort to create an Environmental Committee led in part by the administration. This initiative stemmed from Lizzy Zultoski’s (’07) senior research, and at present the proposal is on the University Council’s agenda for votes. Additionally, a new advisory committee headed by Art Chonko, director of physical plant, has been appropriated funds from the

Finance Committee for work on energy conservation projects.

-Miranda Carter ’09



A mock Sears Tower construction created by the Animal Liberation League to symbolize the monumental forest destruction of the Sears catalog.

Senior ENVS Projects 2007

- Denison Yellow Bike Initiative
- Historical Procession of Environmentally Degrading Technologies
- Establishment of Denison Environmental Committee
- Comparative Analysis of Three Local Organic Operations
- Sustainable Growth in St. Albans Township
- A Mixed Media Portrayal of Rural Ohio Farmscapes for Conservation
- Green Design of Alford-Reese Community Sports Park
- Denison Community Garden
- Asian Carp in the Illinois River
- An Investigation of Neighborhood Redevelopment
- The Community Farm of Ann Arbor

ENVS Fellows 2007-2008

Sarah Page '08



I am an Environmental Studies and International Studies double major from Indianapolis, IN. On campus, I am involved with the Helping Hands Garden of Hope and the Denison Dance Department. After studying abroad in Central America I became interested in the agricultural cooperative movement and the potential it has for alleviating poverty and addressing issues of environmental degradation. For my senior year-long research project, I plan to investigate the feasibility of these cooperatives in reaching economic, environmental, and sociocultural sustainability by using several case studies as a focal point of the study.

Janine Waranowicz '08



I'm a senior Environmental Studies and Spanish double-major with a minor in Chemistry. My hometown is Novi, MI, so I'm a big fan of Detroit sports. On campus, I'm involved in DCGA (Co-Governor and Speaker), Dance Team, Sigma Delta Pi, and Kappa Kappa Gamma. In my spare time, I travel and practice my Spanish! Two summers ago I studied in Santiago, Chile, and this past summer I worked for DTZ International in Madrid, Spain. After Denison, I hope to pursue environmental or international law, after a year working in the real world!

Amy Cahill '08



I am from Rochester, NY and am a Biology and Environmental Studies double major. I'm really into all sorts of environmental issues especially those dealing with consumerism and green buildings. My internship at the U.S. Green Building Council this summer in Washington, D.C. was an awesome experience! I studied abroad my sophomore year with SFS in southern Kenya and had an amazing time. My plans for life after Denison include doing some work for a few years, and then going back to grad school, possibly for Environmental Policy and Management.

Elizabeth Campbell '08



I come all the way from Burlington, Vermont and can't believe this is my last year at Denison! After studying abroad in Costa Rica last year and backpacking through southern Central America, I have become even more interested in sustainable development and environmental education. My senior project deals with writing a curriculum for a third grade after-school environmental education program at Spring Valley that Denison students will run. After I graduate, I hope to at least continue my travels throughout Central America and eventually find myself back by the lake and mountains in Vermont.

Scott Williams '08



I am an Environmental Studies Major with a double minor in Political Science and Economics. I am a teaching assistant for Environmental Politics & Decision Making, I serve as a 2007-2008 Student Representative on the Environmental Studies Program Committee, I am a Man of Principle with Beta Theta Pi, and I enjoy Ultimate Frisbee. I worked as a research assistant for Dr. Kim Diver on a project entitled, "Comparison of Spatial Variability between Native and Non-native Plant Species in Georgian Bay, Ontario."

Stephen Julka '08



My concentration within Environmental Studies is Sociology/Anthropology. I am also majoring in German. During the summer of 2005, I studied in Stuttgart. Born and raised in Madison, Wisconsin, I took an early liking to everything outdoors: camping, hiking, biking, playground games, and anything related to snow are some of my favorite activities. I am also a member of the Denison Diving team, so if I am not hanging around Barney-Davis, I can probably be found in the pool. I hope to head to Germany after graduation, either with a Fulbright Scholarship or another job in place, and then come back to the U.S. for graduate school to study environmental education.

New Faculty and Staff join the ENVS Program

Jordan Mora, Program Manager



I graduated from Denison University in May 2007 and after a few months at home in Maine, I returned to campus as the new Environmental Studies Program Manager. I graduated with a double major in Environmental Studies and Music Performance with a minor in Biology. Classically trained through and through, I have studied the violin since I was nine years old. While I love playing the violin and hope to continue growing and learning as a musician no matter where life takes me, I plan to pursue a career within environmental studies. Right now, my future aspirations are centered on achieving a Master's Degree in Environmental Science with a focus in Restoration Ecology. After graduate school, I plan on joining an environmental consulting firm to help protect and restore ecosystems.

Olivia Aguilar, Visiting Professor



I'm from Plano, Texas. If I could trace how I ended up at Denison, I would have to start at the summer before my sophomore year at A&M, when I worked at a local nursery-an experience that changed my life. Now I wanted to work with plants and would have to face my long-standing fear of science in order to change my major from political science to horticulture science. Not only did my appreciation for science grow henceforth, but I also began to look for ways in which to involve other students in the sciences. This led to my involvement with children's gardens and eventually environmental education. I began to work with elementary school children on a garden project during the last semester of my undergraduate years. Wishing to continue with this work, I focused my thesis project on children's gardening programs and their effect on environmental

attitudes.

Later, I joined Teach for America briefly before moving to Houston where I found that students struggled with science just as I had during my childhood. As an academic, I felt the area of science education for students was traditionally underrepresented in the field and that environmental education could play a significant role in motivating and incorporating these students into the sciences. These ideas are manifested in my dissertation work, which involves the study of science education reform, learning theories, multi-cultural education, and environmental education practices. I am currently looking at the theory of communities of practice and how it might be used as a framework for understanding the participation of students in science-learning contexts along the southern coast of Texas.

Sarah Harris, Associate Professor



I completed my undergraduate degree, a double major in Archaeology and Classics, at the College of Wooster. After Wooster I was accepted into a PhD Classics program at the University of Cincinnati, and while there I was introduced to GIS and Remote Sensing within the context of archaeology. I gradually realized that my interests in human-environment interactions were broader than the ancient world, and I decided that they would fit best into the structure of the PhD program of the Department of Geography and the Environment at the University of Texas. My research at UT was focused on the island of Cyprus, and I conducted several years of fieldwork there, including a year as a Fulbright IIE fellow. This research formed the basis of my dissertation entitled "Colonial Forestry and Environmental History: British Policies in Cyprus, 1878-1960."

I will continue to investigate facets of the general topic of human-environment interaction in my future work. Some of these wide-ranging research aspects include: similarities between the past and present policies within the context of EU and FAO activities, especially in former colonial countries; the ability of environmental policies to shape community and regional development while at the same time emphasize socially constructed norms; the effect of rural to urban population movement on the environmental landscape; and the role of environment in conflict and conflict resolution. Although my current studies focus upon Cyprus, the general research questions I study and methods I utilize can be applied universally. I would be happy to help any students with similar interests formulate their own research questions for the area of the world in which they are most interested.

Alumni Spotlight: Anna Spain '99



Anna Spain, a graduate of the Environmental Studies Program in 1999, returned to her alma mater on September 16th and 17th to talk to current students and visiting friends about her experiences in environmental and international law. Anna Spain received her J.D. degree from Harvard University in 2004; at the time, only one other Denison graduate had attended Harvard Law School. While recollecting her memories of the Barney-Davis renovation, Anna led a "Fireside Chat" to share her experiences and give post-graduate advice on law school and career options. She also spoke to Olivia Aguilar's class, ENVS 101 People and the Environment, where her presence and insight were greatly valued.

After graduating from Denison, Anna accepted a job with the Environmental Protection Agency, where she developed and promoted policies on global climate change. Her work there helped her to determine her future career goals, and with the guidance of her mentor, she decided that she would apply to Harvard Law School.

Anna Spain'99 is the Assistant Director at the UCLA Burkle Center for International Relations

Within Anna's "Seven Lessons of Building a Career," she focused on the importance for all of us to have mentors in our life that can give us advice and serve as sounding boards for our future goals.

Upon graduating from Harvard, Anna accepted a job with the U.S. Department of State working as an Attorney-Advisor in the Office of the Legal Adviser for International Claims and Investment Disputes. She recently accepted the position of Assistant Director at the University of California, Los Angeles Burkle Center for International Relations.

-Caiti Schroering '09

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