Spring 2017 Newsletter

Environmental and Sustainability Studies

New Emphases: Fall 2017

Due to the rapid growth and interest in the ENVST Program and a need for ENVST graduates with specific skill sets, the ENVST Program has been working hard to provide students with a variety of emphases. Five new emphases are launching Fall 2017:

- Ecological Literacy and Social Change
- Food Systems and Community Resilience
- Climate and Energy
- Air, Water, and Health
- Land Management, Conservation, and Place

The new emphases will allow students to focus their studies to best fit the career path of their choice. Book an advising appointment with our ENVST advisor, Ally Hollan for more information: ally.hollan@csbs.utah.edu

SCIF

The Sustainable Campus Initiative Fund (SCIF) is the U’s green grant program that gives opportunity to students and staff to propose projects that enhance the sustainability of the campus and community. SCIF gives the opportunity for students to improve campus, collaborate across departments, gain unique professional experience and leave a legacy at the U. Many of our ENVST students participate in SCIF proposals and three projects have been accepted this spring.

Solar in Centennial Valley

Solar panels will be installed on the Taft-Nicholson Center located in the Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in Centennial Valley, Montana. This will help the center offset energy use and promote sustainable living.

Pioneer Garden Fence

The Pioneer Garden Fence project designates a parameter for the gardens, protects the gardens against damage from passing campus foot traffic, and creates possibilities for vertical gardening.

Dyson Airblade Hand Dryer Installation

Dyson Airblade hand dryers will be installed in Frederick Sutton Building. They will be replacing paper towel dispensers and will be saving the building ~$10,000 in cost, ~6,000g of CO2 per year, and drastically decrease waste.

Social Soup

The Sustainability Leadership Committee hosted the spring semester’s Social Soup. This event is aimed at raising awareness about food inequity on the global and local scale while enjoying a bowl of vegetarian soup donated by University Dining Services. This semester, the committee invited four local organizations that work on local food issues to give a panel presentation. The organizations that participated were The Green Urban Lunch Box, Wasatch Community Gardens, New Roots Farm, and The Spice Kitchen. Each organization spoke about what they do in the Salt Lake Community and answered the audience’s questions. This event allowed students, faculty, and staff to learn about what is happening outside of the University on the issue of food justice in the Salt Lake area.

Fall Semester Events

August

- Bike to Movie Night: Ride your bike to the Edible Campus Gardens for an outdoor movie showing with an environmental theme. A great way to meet fellow ENVST peers and kick off the semester!

November

- Alumni Social: An opportunity for ENVST alumni to re-engage with the program.

October

- Fall Harvest Soiree: Come dressed in a costume to the Edible Campus Gardens for a volunteer session, followed by a tasty celebration of food, a costume contest, and volunteer awards.

Panels

The sustainability leadership students hosted three panels over the spring semester that focused on different sustainability issues, air, water, and food. They invited local experts to present their work to the students of the University of Utah students local issues, ways to become involved, and the potential for future internship opportunities.

- Air Quality
  - The sustainability leadership committee held their first of three panels regarding activism. This panel brought four non-profit organizations to have a discussion about our air quality and how each of these organizations approach the problem. The speakers were from HEAL, Breathe, Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment and Utah Moms for Clean Air. The event showed how hard these organizations work to improve our air and their current efforts whether it be through education, lobbying, or planning events focused on giving the public tips about how to clean our air. If you are interested in getting involved with any of the aforementioned organizations there is a list of them on envst.utah.edu under the “Internships & Jobs” tab.

- Water
  - The water panel was a huge success and had great attendance. The panelists included Zach Frankel from Utah Rivers Council, Brian Tonetti from Seven Canyons Trust, Laura Hanson from the Jordan River Commission, and Teresa Gray the Water Quality & Hazardous Waste Bureau Manager for Salt Lake County. The panelists discussed topics ranging from climate change, urban hydrology, daylighting buried creek beds in Salt Lake City, and the real issues that we will face in terms of water in Utah and the west as a whole. Attendees asked thought provoking questions, and the panelists were able to communicate potential internship and job opportunities to the crowd.

Capstone Highlight

This spring, ENVST students in Jenn Shah and Adrienne Cachelin’s capstone courses have been working on some great projects focused on sustainability and environmental awareness. Here are a few highlights from this semester’s capstone projects:

- Installation of bike racks with solar roofs and bike vending machines at the Marriott Library
- Survey of storm water quality (focused on oil, grease, and metals) in Red Butte Creek
- New compost bins for the Edible Campus Gardens
- Working with 4th graders studying biodiversity at Red Butte Garden and considering assessment tools for these 4th grade programs
- Evaluation of the barriers to cycling that exist in the Glendale community
- Research about how freshmen respond to the term “sustainability”

We are very excited to see the results of these projects, and we are proud of this year’s ENVST graduates for helping make our campus more sustainable for future classes!

New Career Coach

The ENVST program is excited to welcome Carmen Gold as our new career coach! She is from Riverton, Utah and is currently a student working on her Master of Education in Education, Leadership, and Policy here at the University of Utah. She is currently watching Sense8, The Crown, and Gilmore Girls on Netflix. Her most unusual job was a water ride attendant. She is excited about working with students and helping them with their professional and educational goals. Carmen offers help in many areas including Cover Letter Review, Resume Review, Career Explorations, Job Search, Interview Prep/Mock Interviews and Graduate School facilitations. To schedule an appointment with Carmen, go to careers.utah.edu and log in to find her contact info.

Contributors

This issue of the ENVST Newsletter was put together by the ENVST Student Leadership Committee of the Fall 2017 Semester, with help from those in the program’s office.