

WSFF

The Wild and Scenic Film Festival (WSFF) is a national entity that is focused on local environmental advocacy, both informing people about the state of the world, and inspiring its attendees to take action. The ENVST program hosted the WSFF for the fourth time this Fall Semester on November 18th, it was a tremendous success! Over \$2,700 was raised through ticket sales and a silent auction, all of which will go toward student program scholarships.

Hosted at Utah Museum of Fine Arts (UMFA), the event was catered by local businesses: Liberty Heights Fresh and Hungry Bear. We benefited greatly from the help of our national sponsors as well as from some fantastic local sponsors such as; Red Butte Gardens, King's English Book Store, Tracy Aviary, Alta Ski Resort, and many more!

We hope to see you all next year for another entertaining evening!

WSFF Scholarship Funds



Newcomer Highlight

Brett Clark
ENVST Director

"It is an exciting time to be involved in this program. Our students are pursuing projects to lessen the environmental impacts of the university and to enhance student knowledge of ecological issues. They are participating in community-engaged learning projects to build stronger, more resilient communities. They are working as interns, gaining concrete experience and knowledge regarding their roles as citizens. They are conducting and presenting original research, integrating interdisciplinary insights gained from the curriculum of the program. It is clear that our students are doing important work—they are active and creative. It is invigorating to be part of this process and this historical moment."

Dani Porier
SAC Chair

This Fall, Dani was named the Environmental and Sustainability Studies Student Advisory Committee's (SAC) chair. Dani has put in many hours this past semester by handling the SAC's, as well as the Sustainability Leadership Committee's (SLC) paperwork in the budgeting process. She also gave significant time to updating both entities presence online, each being tremendously time consuming tasks, and therefore deserving some applause.

Contributors

This issue of the ENVST Newsletter was put together by the ENVST Student Leadership Committee of the Fall 2015 Semester, with help from those in the program's office.



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Internships

SLC Green Division of Sustainability
Sustainability Intern

SLC green, Salt Lake City's Division of Sustainability and the Environment, is recruits motivated, passionate students to join their internship program. SLCgreen interns assist in research, facilitation and promotion of citywide sustainability initiatives. Interns also support sustainability education and engagement for residents, businesses and city employees. This internship teaches valuable skills needed in city-based sustainability efforts.

Wasatch Community Gardens
Volunteer Assistant Intern

This internship encourages it's members to develop leadership skills through coordination and organization of volunteer crews for the gardens located in the Salt Lake Valley. The student in this position also assists in the development and leadership of the Plant Sale Volunteer Opportunity and represents Wasatch Community Gardens at farmers markets and tabling events. This internship allows students to get their hands dirty, learn about sustainable gardening and food justice, and gain important coordination and leadership skills.

Alta Environmental Center
Intern

The Alta Environmental Center offers two diverse internships. The first is a project-based student-designed study that is flexible and creative. It allows for creativeness in choosing a research-based project in relation to the environment and ecosystems in Alta. The second internship opportunity is a summer stewardship. This intern is responsible for maintaining Alta's native nursery and on-the-ground restoration planting, leading volunteers and school groups on stewardship events, maintaining recycling efforts, and much more. Both of these internships are great for outdoor-loving, motivated individuals.

Spring Semester Events

January

Dessert Night An opportunity to meet and engage with peers and faculty over your shared passion for delectable desserts and the environment!

March

Earth U Dinner Come for a delicious dinner and fetching conversation focused on sustainability and diversity. A mentorship event connecting students with faculty and community members.

April

Environmental Career Panel A great way to learn about environmental career options as well as to make connections with professionals from the community.

OSH

Orson Spencer Hall, where the Environmental and Sustainability Studies Program has long been located, is getting a makeover. The old and tired structure is being demolished, and an aesthetically pleasing edifice of modern education will be raised in its place. The new OSH building is in it's early planning phases now. It will boast approximately 54,000 square feet more than the current building and will enable for more spacious classrooms, less cramped hallways, and the creation of much needed common study or "breakout" spaces.

The architects and planning committees are taking strides to reduce the building's environmental impact, and enhance its sustainable qualities. New efficiency elements, such as better insulation and improved lighting fixtures, will significantly reduce the energy costs of the updated OSH building. According to the University of Utah's new building standards, this building will aim for a minimum LEED Silver certification as well.

Working with the architects and planning committees, some students from the ENVST Capstone class this semester chose to focus their projects on student led implementation of sustainable features within the new building. These projects center around rainwater harvesting, sustainable landscaping, a building sustainability dashboard, and artwork to emphasize these and other sustainable projects on campus. Each group is currently in the process of securing funding through SCIF grants and other sources to ensure the implementation of these sustainable measures.

Alumni Spotlight

Brian Tonetti

Program and Policy Planner, Jordan River Commission

Brian originally moved to Utah in 2011 to pursue a professional skiing career while attending University. After arriving his love for the mountains and outdoors evolved, quickly learning that he wanted to pursue a degree that complimented this passion. He chose to double major in Environmental & Sustainability Studies and Urban Planning.

"Due to my love of skiing, I worshiped the wonderful snow we get here in Utah. I was fascinated by where the water went when the snow melted." This curiosity led Brian to the Jordan River. The Jordan River Commission is a partnership between 13 municipalities, 3 state agencies, and a variety of other partners with the common goal of outreach and education regarding the Jordan River.

He began his career with the JRC in an internship and after much hard work and compassion, is now the Program and Policy Planner at the Jordan River Commission, as well as the Co-Director and Co-Founder of the Seven Canyons Trust (SCT). The Seven Canyons Trust is a nonprofit working to daylight, rehabilitate, and restore the beauty and health of the seven canyon creeks that flow into the Salt Lake Valley.

Brian's capstone project in the ENVST program turned into a vision document of a 100 year plan to daylight over 21 miles of buried creeks throughout the Salt Lake Valley. His document, 100 Years of Daylighting, won a Utah APA outstanding achievement award that led to the creation of the SCT to pursue the mission of daylighting.

When deciding on a major, Brian advises, "pursue majors in school you are actually passionate about, not something where you will find a job the easiest, or will make you the most money". Brian is a shining example of a student who followed his own passion and interests, bringing him happiness and a chance to create meaningful change.

If you would like to share your story as an alumni of the ENVST Program contact us at envst@envst.utah.edu.