

Protect the Greatest Snow on Earth

Utah draws visitors from all over the globe. They come to hike the national parks, mountain bike rough terrain, and most importantly they come for "The Greatest Snow on Earth". Skiing and snowboarding are major aspects of Utah's travel and tourism industry but it is also a big factor in where students will decide to attend college. The University of Utah is home to students from all backgrounds, nations, and states. It currently ranks 399th out of 2,525 universities in geographic diversity.

One out-of-state student told us why she chose the University of Utah. "I chose Utah because it was close to home, but far enough away to experience a completely new setting. Coming from a vibrant ski community in Bozeman, Montana I grew up hearing about the Wasatch Range and so I utilized going to college as a platform to explore the mountains around Salt Lake." Megan Petitt is a freshman in the pre-design program.

Our snow is not only valuable to the travel and tourism industry but to every Utahan in the state. Our snowpack each year is the quite literally the water we need to sustain us. It is no secret to the skiers and snowboarders that this year's snowpack has been dismal, consequently we will have very poor runoff this spring and summer, which is why students from across the campus and the ENVST program have decided to play their part in conserving water this summer.

Hannah Jeffs, a freshman in the Communications program said, "I will only use sprinklers during the early morning, avoiding unnecessary evaporation from the sun. I will also always turn the tap off when brushing my teeth." Brinley Wilson, a sophomore in the communications program said, "I plan on conserving water by taking shorter showers, using dry shampoo, letting yellow mellow, and only running the washer at full capacity."

Try checking your faucets and toilets for leaks, take shorter showers, fully load your dishwashers and washers, and maybe try a meatless Monday. We know our ENVST alumni and current students may already know what they should do; but we hope you can be an example in conserving water for your family, friends, and neighbors.

Community Engaged Learning

Engagement with the Women's Resource Center

Each year students have the opportunity to be involved in a Community Engaged Learning (CEL) project in Dr. Adriene Cachelin's ENVST 3365, Environmental Justice course. These projects give students the opportunity to work with organizations outside of the University. This semester, senior Kiman Kaur worked with the Women's Resource Center. She helped facilitate a workshop with their Go Girlz Initiative called Finding Your Power and Place in Ecology. This initiative focuses on a group of young women interested in exploring higher education. Its purpose is to deconstruct stereotypes around what women and their bodies are told to look like by society. During this workshop, Kaur had the girls answer questions about how they perceive and use the environments in which they live. She then used their answers to explore the stereotypes and assumptions this group had about the environment. They discussed their answers and participated in a gallery stroll of different environmental justice social movements. After engaging in the stroll, they had a conversation about environmental justice and environmental racism and ended the workshop by going outside and painting their own versions of a perfect world where the environment is a space and place that they wanted to be an active part of. Kaur explained that "it was really amazing to see how the girls were understanding the intersections and patterns between the movements as well as the power of everyday people in organizing and voicing their concerns."



Contributors

This issue of the ENVST Newsletter was put together by the ENVST Sustainability Leadership Committee of the Spring 2018 Semester with help from those in the program's office.



New ENVST Course

A new course will be offered this fall in the Environmental and Sustainability Studies program. Sustainable Streams and Riparian Zones (ENVST 3390 / GEOG 5/3390) will be a 3 credit course taught by Professor Jennifer Follstad Shah. It will count as an elective in three emphases of the ENVST program (Air, Water & Health; Land Management, Conservation & Place; Climate & Energy) and one emphasis in Geography (Biogeography emphasizing in Climate & Landscape Dynamics). This course will train students in methods for understanding the structure and function of streams and riparian areas, while also considering issues of equity and economy. There will be field trips along Red Butte Creek to see sites with sensor installations and collect data along the watershed's wildland to urban gradient. Students will collaborate with community partners to apply data collected as part of the class to stream and riparian rehabilitation projects within the watershed. This will be a great course for anyone wanting to know more about the many factors that go into conservation and restoration of these ecosystems.

How are students using their degrees?

Students in the ENVST program are exposed to a variety of environmental topics and they plan to use their degrees in many ways.

Logan Hastings

Logan is emphasizing in Land Management, Conservation, and Place as well as minoring in Parks Recreation and Tourism (PRT). She plans on using her degree, in combination with PRT studies, to go into land management for outdoor recreation. She hopes to work with an agency like the U.S. Forest Service or the National Park Service.

Samantha Fox

Samantha is emphasizing in Food Justice and Community Resilience with a minor in Geography. She plans to use her ENVST degree to help guide communities with the potential to develop sustainably onto a path of food security and equity. She wants to help her surrounding communities while also setting an example for global communities to maximize their resources to benefit the whole of their community. This includes community gardens, public transportation, social and environmental justice, and overall grassroots activism geared towards changing policy at the local level.

Sierra Govett

Sierra is majoring in Environmental & Sustainability Studies along with Ballet. With her degrees, she would like to get a job working with a company or a city as a sustainability coordinator and planner. She wants to incite change beyond the individual level, and cities and companies have the ability to make that change.

Erika Kusakabe

Erika is majoring in Environmental & Sustainability Studies with a minor in Japanese. She plans to be a sustainability consultant in the United States and Japan. Erika wants to end solid waste disposal and create a closed loop system where all waste can be reused or recycled.

Tree Campus Updates

The University of Utah is one of five universities in the state that is designated as a Tree Campus by the Arbor Day Foundation. This designation means the University must observe Arbor Day, create service projects focusing on trees, and have a Tree Campus advisory committee. The University has an inventory of 12,000 trees all across campus. In March of 2015 the University of Utah joined the Tree Campus USA committee. This organization has planted over 40,000 trees on campuses around the nation since 2016. The Tree Campus certification is key to keeping our campus outdoor shady study spaces available for future students. If you are interested in getting involved in the University of Utah's Tree Campus committee please contact Elise Gatti, committee chairperson, at elise.gatti@utah.edu.



Alumni Highlight

Jason Robinson

Associate Professor at the University of Wyoming

Jason Robinson is an Associate Professor in the Environmental and Natural Resources (ENR) law program at the University of Wyoming College of Law. He and his partner, Rani Robinson, are both proud University of Utah alumni. Jason earned his B.S. in Environmental Studies at the University of Utah—benefiting greatly from the mentorship of political science with professor Dan McCool among other faculty members—and then went on to pursue a J.D. from the University of Oregon School of Law and an LL.M. and S.J.D. at Harvard Law School. Before becoming a law professor, Jason held various law and policy positions with the Harvard Water Security Initiative, Emmett Environmental Law and Policy Clinic at Harvard Law School, Colorado River Governance Initiative at the University of Colorado, Oregon Supreme Court, Oregon Department of Justice's Special Litigation Unit, and Oregon Court of Appeals' Office of Appellate Legal Counsel. Jason loves the American West, and his research and teaching revolve around American Indian law, public lands, and water law and policy. These subjects frame an edited volume Jason is currently putting together with several colleagues from the University of Utah and other universities in the Colorado River Basin states: *Vision and Place: John Wesley Powell and Reimagination of the Colorado River Basin*. This project and Jason's other ENR-related endeavors stem from the life-changing experiences he had in the University of Utah ENVST program.

Fall Semester Events

August

Bike to Movie Night Ride your bike to the Edible Campus Gardens to enjoy a free screening of an environmentally-related film. This is a great way to kick off the semester!

October

Fall Harvest Soirée Join the Edible Campus Gardens for their 8th annual Fall Harvest Soirée. The event is a work party where many volunteers are needed. The event is a great way to learn new garden skills and to get involved with the Gardens. The Soirée will be catered by El Sillero, who uses the Gardens' produce in their restaurant.

November

Sustainability Leadership Committee Event (TBA)

Fall 2018 Gardner Commons

The Environmental & Sustainability Studies Program is moving to the new Carolyn and Kem Gardner Commons building. You can reach us at our new address listed below come Fall 2018.