

## Newsletter of the **Center for Sustainability and the Environment** at Wells College.

We must be real!!



This brand, spankin' new sign was installed in Zabriskie's second floor hallway this fall. Note the ample open space above the lettering to add the name of a donor interested in fully supporting the Center's work. [hint, hint].

### In this issue:

Summer internships	2
New sustainability courses for spring	2
Waste(d) Time ?	2
Wells-ians out spreadin' the good word about sustainability	2
Have a ball... a rice ball, that is...	2
Even the stones get recycled	3
The worms go in, the worms go out...	3
Getting employees to think "green"	3
Career Clothing Closet	3
What's the Buzz?	3
Gotcha being green	3
A "Greener" View of Wells	3
A Pile of [recycled] Paper	3
Sustainability in the Spotlight	3
Having a Fair-ly great time learning about sustainability	4
Minnesota alumni meet-up	4
Fair Trade Month observed	4
Learning about sustainability can be fun	4

## President Gibraltar places Wells on the Climate Action Front Line

Earlier this Fall, President Gibraltar became one of the first college and university presidents to sign on to an expanded *Climate Commitment*, joining 45 other institutional presidents leading on climate action. This new expanded commitment is supported by *Second Nature*, a non-profit organization helping build a sustainable and positive global future through leadership networks in higher education.

In 2008, former president Ryerson signed the *American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment* (now referred to as the *Carbon Commitment*), also administered by *Second Nature*; under the terms of that pledge, the Wells community developed and has been implementing its own *Climate Action Plan*.

**Resilience** is the ability of a system or community to survive disruption and to anticipate, adapt, and flourish in the face of change.

President Gibraltar's renewed commitment for Wells to become a *Climate Leader* adds a new area of planning focus, the *Resilience Commitment*, to augment our prior carbon neutrality promise. This *Resilience Commitment* focuses on climate adaptation and community capacity-building to deal with a changing climate and resulting extremes.

As stated in the *Climate Leadership* pledge, President Gibraltar acknowledges that "mitigation and adaptation are complementary strategies for reducing the likelihood of unmanageable change, managing the risks, and taking advantage of new opportunities created by our changing climate".

We are currently working to collect data in order to calculate and submit our required 2015 Greenhouse Gas Emissions report in mid-January.

As part of our new commitment to planning for climate resilience, within a year, we must establish and actively support a joint campus-community task force to ensure alignment of the plan with community goals and to facilitate joint action. If you have interest in participating in this resilience planning process, please contact Marian Brown, director, *Center for Sustainability and the Environment*.

In advance of the COP 21 global climate talks in Paris, President Gibraltar also signed Wells on to a coordinated pledge among higher education Climate Action Leaders, the White House, and the U.S. State Department. President Obama issued that shared commitment in an event on November 19th.



## Getting all REved up!

Wells College has signed on to the *REV Campus Challenge* at the Achiever level. Members at this level formally committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, have dedicated staff focusing on clean energy investments, and engage with the external community to promote clean energy. The *REV Campus Challenge*, sponsored by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSDERDA) promotes clean energy efforts by recognizing and supporting colleges and universities in New York State that implement clean energy projects and principles on campus, in the classroom, and in their surrounding communities. This program is part of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's *Reforming the Energy Vision* (REV), a strategy to build a clean, resilient, and affordable energy system for all New Yorkers. *REV Campus Challenge* recognizes achievements among institutions of higher education and enables exchange of best practices and lessons learned. This new program is still being developed, so stay tuned for future updates.



**Autumn in Aurora.** This photo was taken on November 8th, during the Sustainability Fair (see more page 4). Our Fall colors held on remarkably well this year.

**Summer Internships**

At the summer Internship Fair we noted some experiences related to sustainability:



**Haleigh Dutcher '18** explains her work with the New York Department of Environmental Conservation's Hale Creek Field Station.



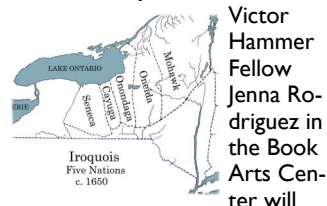
**Carley Legg '18** worked at Wolf Mountain Nature Center.



**Waste(d) Time?** Students in the Intro to Sustainability class learned some valuable lessons as they sorted their peers' trash and recycling collections from the residence halls.



**Have a ball... a rice ball, that is!** This fall, three of the Japanese exchange students from Doshisha Womens College offered a special demonstration, making *onigiri* (Japanese rice balls) and offering samples to Aurora Farmers Market customers. The students flavored some of the sticky white rice using green shiso organically grown in the Languages Garden.

**New Sustainability Courses for Spring****FNIS 285 Cayuga Territory: A Sense of Place**

Victor Hammer Fellow Jenna Rodriguez in the Book Arts Center will lead this exploration of how we experience life both as cultural insiders and outsiders. Students will investigate a sense of place using both of these methods. Students will be introduced to multi-disciplinary approaches to explore the Cayuga territory. Through book making, students

will learn to research, engage and understand the Cayuga Territory. They will create handmade books and other projects in hopes of developing a personal relationship with the land we live on. 3 credits. No prerequisites.

**BKRT 195 Scientific Approach to Papermaking**

Also under Jenna Rodriguez' tutelage, students will get a crash course into papermaking, learning how to make basic sheets of paper. They will learn how to collect local plants, dry, cook, and beat them into pulp to make paper. They will learn what parts of the

plant yield the most fiber and different methods to beat fiber. 3 credits. No prerequisites.

**ART385 Stitched Fiber**

Studio Art professor Katie Waugh will lead students through this introduction to hand-stitched fiber processes including embroidery, sewing construction, crochet & knitting. Application to contemporary art practices will be emphasized, with ties to understanding fiber's relationship to craft, gender, DIY culture and industrial production systems. 3 credit hours. Some prerequisites.

**Wells-ians out spreadin' the good word about sustainability**

Our faculty, staff and students have been representing Wells at conferences and meetings, talking about sustainability-related subjects:

**Kent Klitgaard**, professor of Economics, presented three papers at the joint conference of the Canadian Society for Ecological Economics/United States Society for Ecological Economics/Biophysical Economics Association in Vancouver; he chaired a session on *Biophysical Economics and Systems Science*. Kent's presentations: "Examining the relation between quality of life and biophysical vs. economic conditions"; "Biophysical economics and the end of the age of economic growth"; and "The future of ecological and biophysical economics." He was also named to the editorial board of a new journal, *Biophysical Economics and Resource Quality*.



**Gehan Dhameeth**, assistant professor of Business, conducted a seminar on "Current Marketing Trends and Challenges" to students at the American University in the Emirates (AUE) – his talk included elements about sustainable business. In August, professor Dhameeth presented "Modeling the Influence of Cultural Factors for Global Brand Management" at the International Business & Education conference.

**Kurt Pipa**, lecturer in Japanese, along with his wife Chieko Pipa, conducted an educational program in Sustainable Lifestyles for Nihon University. The program took place at EcoVillage at Ithaca; visitors were offered a series of workshops, lectures and hands-on experiences in sustainable living. This program is an activity of *Sustena Life Club*, an initiative started by Kurt and Chieko to bring Japanese and other international travelers to Ithaca to share, learn and inspire each other in the field of sustainability. A *Master Composter*, Kurt also held a successful vermicomposting workshop at EcoVillage in May, teaching worm composting basics.



Professor of Biology and Environmental Science **Jackie Schnurr** presented her poster "Does excluding small mammals for 20 years change tree species establishment?" at the 100<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Ecological Society of America in Baltimore.

**Niamh O' Leary**, professor of Environmental Science, was invited to participate in the Cayuga Lake Watershed Restoration and Protection Plan update, as a member of the Technical Advisory Committee.



Victor Hammer Fellow **Jenna Rodriguez** received a project assistance grant from the College Book Arts Association to complete an artist book called "Still," a letterpress printed hand-bound book that honors and pays respect to road kill found along Route 90 during Jenna's daily commute.



**Marian Brown**, director of the Center for Sustainability and the Environment, **Stephen Armstrong '16** and **Holli Erksen '16** gave presentations at the conference of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education in Minneapolis.



Stephen and Holli presented "Lights Out", a poster about their project in Milene Morfe's Psychology of Environmental Sustainability class to increase energy conservation. Marian presented twice: "Wandering Out of the [Food] Desert" detailed the development this year of the successful Aurora Farmers Market; and "The Seed of a Great Idea", about the Center's partnership with our Library to start the Wells College Seed Exchange.





## Wellspring

### Even the stones get recycled

Jim Button, Grounds crew foreman, recycled stone pavers saved from the Macmillan sidewalk renovation project a couple years back. Jim reused those flat paving stones to create the terrific raised landscape beds around the new and improved entrance to *The Well*. That is Jim, on his knees, getting that new evergreen established in the corner of the planting bed.



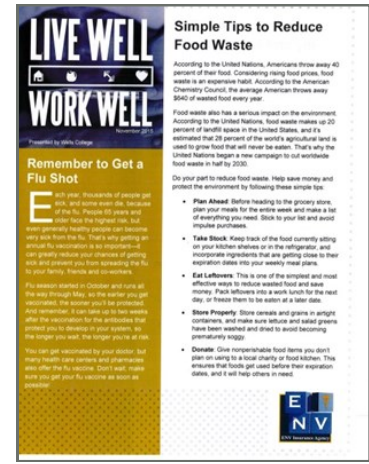
### The worms go in, the worms go out...

Due to the *Grind Café's* business really picking up this fall, custodial staff reported issues dealing with heavy trash bags filled with coffee grounds. The Center worked with the Grind-ers to divert coffee grounds into collection totes outside the building. The first filled tote was inoculated with red wiggler worms as a *vermiculture* composting demonstration. Additional tote-loads of grounds will go into new compost bins set up near the Languages Garden.



### Getting employees to think "green"

The fall issue of the employee newsletter, published by Nancy Baidon and Kit Van Orman in Human Resources, highlighted ways we can all reduce food waste at home and work.



### Career Clothing Closet

Alicin Welsh, director of *Experiential Learning and Career Services* asked to add a new element to the *Bargain Basement* reuse area: a professional clothing closet for students to access for appropriate attire for internships, job interviews and other professional events.



### What's the Buzz??

Campus Store manager Rich Kloster is the man behind the sustainable products being offered on campus. His latest introduction: *Burt's Bees* products, made with non-toxic formulations.



### "Gotcha" cards

We partnered this fall with *The Grind Café* to accept these reward cards, given to folks spotted using their reusable beverage mug. *The Grind* redeems each *Gotcha* card for a free coffee refill dispensed into a recipient's reusable mug. During the first block, 250 *Gotcha* cards were issued. Way to go, all you folks we spotted with your mugs!

### A "Greener" View of Wells

This new Admissions prospectus brochure arrived, featuring the updated Wells tagline: "Arrive Curious ∴ Graduate Prepared". We know most prospective students will look at all the pictures and statistics included. We flashed on the document production information panel, which reads in part: *In keeping with the College's commitment to environmental sustainability, this brochure is printed on paper that contains 30% post consumer waste recycled content using vegetable-based inks.*



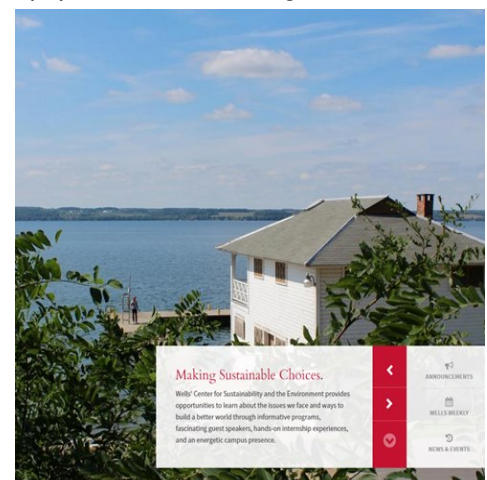
### A Pile of [recycled] Paper

Laurie Turo in *Academic and Student Life* bulk purchased the paper for use in offices and in networked printers and copiers. Wells can utilize New York state contracts for many commodities. The good news is that Laurie was able to purchase all 30% recycled-content, *Forest Stewardship Council*-certified papers. The even better news is that overall paper use is down, so she bought significantly less of it.



### Sustainability in the spotlight

We appreciated having a turn in the rotating display of campus highlight information on the spiffy new interactive College website.







## Center for Sustainability and the Environment

Marian Brown, Director  
Wells College

170 Main Street

Office: 213 Zabriskie Hall

Aurora NY 13026

Phone: 315-364-3304

E-mail: [mbrown@wells.edu](mailto:mbrown@wells.edu) or  
[sustainability@wells.edu](mailto:sustainability@wells.edu)

We're on the Web:  
[www.wells.edu/sustainability](http://www.wells.edu/sustainability)



Wells Center for  
Sustainability and  
the Environment



@Wells Sust Center

Just ahead of the AASHE conference in Minneapolis in October (see page 2), **Marian Brown, Stephen Armstrong, Holli Erksen, and Susan Sloan**, director of Admissions (who was traveling in the Midwest for student recruitment), met with the very active Minnesota alumni group at their fall meeting. At this event, hosted by 90-years-young Loraine Plasman '44, the group was especially interested to learn more about Wells' integration of sustainability from our students' perspective.



To observe Fair Trade Month in October, the Center partnered with Sugar High to

offer chocolate chunk cookies for Tea Time at the Grind. The Center provided the fair trade certified chocolate - Sugar High did the baking. The result: a delicious lesson.

**Sustainability** is a decision-making framework for continuous improvement that mindfully takes into account the social, environmental, and economic impacts of our choices.

## Having a Fair-ly Great Time Learning about Sustainability

The Sustainability Fair on November 9<sup>th</sup> in the Sustainability Center was organized by Wells Campus Greens and FORCES (Friends of Recreation, Conservation and Environmental Stewardship), a partnership with New York State Parks. A number of fun and educational activities were offered.



**Ana Toumpas '17** offered fun and educational games about common invasive species.

Students prepared apples harvested locally from the S.H.A.R.E. farm in Union Springs, taking turns to press them to make fresh apple cider.



NYS Parks sent displays of animal pelts, including skunk, bear and opossum, as well as some animal tracks.



**Heather Hiltbrand '16** gave lessons in tie-dyeing to extend the life of old clothing, using old FORCES t-shirts.

**Ashley Gingeleski '17** showed participants how to "upcycle" found materi-



als into attractive and useful gift items like bookmarks and pencil cases. Campus Greens co-leader **Natalie Jay '17** demonstrated how to turn an old T-shirt into a

reusable shopping bag.

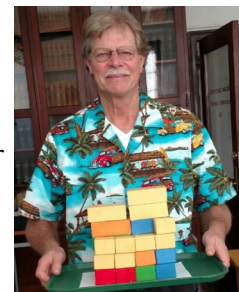
The activities that Ana, Heather, Ashley, and Marie (below) planned for their peers were part of their final project for the Introduction to Sustainability class.

## Learning About Sustainability Can Be Fun!

Glen Park resident Assistants **Chelsea Carlin '16** and **Lyndsey Wells '16** hosted Center director **Marian Brown** for a hall program on sustainability for their residents. Marian brought along *Earth Café 2050*, an interactive demonstration of ecological footprinting, using colored blocks to represent key areas of consumption: food, transportation, housing, waste, and consumer goods. The GP residents also did a trash/recycling sort to learn what waste materials properly go in which collection bin.



Professor Kent Klitgaard had Marian come in to his *Ecological Economics and Political Ecology* class to have his students measure their footprint using the *Earth Café* tool. Kent bravely measured his own footprint in front of his class. Note that each layer of blocks represents one earth's worth of resources, if everyone on earth consumed resources at the same rate as the participant.



**Marie Valliere '16** and her fellow Dodge Resident Assistants also partnered with the Center and with Wells Campus Greens to hold a sustainability learning event for their residents. Marian gave a brief talk on water use in food products, and participants also learned about proper trash/recycling sorting. Prizes were given for the best upcycled item, and Greens provided the materials for Dodge residents to decorate boxes they could use to collect recyclables in their residence hall rooms. Hopefully these in-room boxes make it easier to keep items properly separated when it's time to walk materials from one's room to the building's recycling/trash collection area.



Wells College joined a number of other New York State campuses to participate in the *Campus Crunch*, encouraging healthier eating habits and increasing consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables. More than 90 members of our campus community pledged to do so, receiving in exchange a delicious, locally grown Empire apple to "crunch" into.

