

Environmental Science Newsletter

Allegheny College

Campus Sustainability Champions



Recently, junior Dave Shipe and Sustainability Coordinator Kelly Boulton were honored as PERC (Pennsylvania Environmental Resource Consortium) Campus Sustainability Champions. The award is given annually to members of Pennsylvania colleges and universities who “have made meaningful contributions benefiting social, economic and/or environmental sustainability on their campus, in their community, or in society at large.” Shipe was named a Sustainability Champion for his involvement in food sustainability activities on campus. Last semester, Shipe was instrumental in revitalizing the Allegheny’s aquaponics system, which produces lettuce and tilapia used in Brooks and McKinley’s. Boulton received the award for her dedication to improving Allegheny’s sustainability. She is responsible for organizing the October Energy Challenge, the local foods DeHart Dinner, helping Allegheny achieve climate neutrality by 2020, and many other sustainability initiatives on campus.

Wild and Scenic Environmental Film Festival

On Sunday October 23, 2016 the Wild and Scenic Environmental Film Festival took place in Shafer Auditorium. The pre-fest rocked out with guest band, Salmon Frank, as well as environmental organizations Creek Connections, Foundations for Sustainable Forests, and Crawford County Conservation District. During the pre-fest, members from Allegheny’s Students for Environmental Action, Outing Club, and Edible provided face-painting, eco-friendly cosmetic-making, slacklining, and applesauce-making. With great tunes and activities came delectable free food from local businesses including Creative Crust, Drogo and Tuck, and Confections of a Cake Lover. Visitors basked in the eco-friendly scene till they were reeled into the auditorium for a series of fifteen short films featuring environmental activism. The audience was inspired by films on hellbenders, waterway conservation from Kentucky to Colorado, pesticide and herbicide use in Hawai’i, and food justice brought to communities by Sierra Harvest. Each film enlightened the audience on environmental injustices across the country and nourished inspiration for our own communities. The films featured at Allegheny’s Wild and Scenic Environmental Film Festival can be found at South Yuba River Citizens League’s (SYRCL) website: <https://www.wildandscenicfilmfestival.org/films/>. Indulge in inspiration and take a peak!

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Pictured: Rebecca Montgomery, Alaina Duessel, Rene Benoit, Kyle Heller, Masha Serguievski, Grace Rohaley, Dawei Zong, Karly Studley, Andrew Kirn, Jeff Peters

On October 6, 2016, Professor Bowden's Natural Resource Conservation Freshman Seminar learned about where their milk comes from at the Spruce Row Farm, located just five minutes away from campus. Students were toured by Allegheny alumnus Jeff Peters and learned, not only about the production of milk and dairy, but the hardship and devotion farmers undergo to keep their businesses alive. From sunrise to sunset, the family-run farm's first and foremost concern is the welfare of their Jersey Heifers. After touring the farm, students were left with a perplexing thought: the Spruce Row Farm, though it is not certified organic, provides a comfortable space for their animals. Not all farms that are uncertified organic should be deemed unfit for food and dairy production; many farmers are committed to their work and cannot afford to work for a certification on top of the commitment they already give to their animals. There are farms--much like the Spruce Row Farm--that struggle, yet manage to devote their lives to their animals. Labels in agriculture remain extremely controversial; it is important to leave an open mind toward all workers within the field.

The Carrden Grows

The Carrden is expanding its growing capacity with four new beds. Jeffrey Jones, one of the carpenters with Physical Plant, built the raised beds out of larch. Students taking ENVCS 292 Small-scale Production Agriculture will develop the 2017 crop plan for the garden (including these new beds) in the upcoming spring semester



On Tuesday, October 25, students interested in the environmental science major gathered around 9:30 AM in Carr Hall for the first session of **Gator Day**. The Environmental Science Department Faculty introduced themselves over generously brought, seasonal refreshments of homemade muffins and bread, fresh picked apples, and apple cider. A packed classroom of underclassmen listened intently to the stories of current seniors majoring in environmental science. Allegheny has left a sea of opportunities available to them and to all students interested in environmental science, such as research with professors, a semester at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, MA, and studying abroad in Costa Rica. After the panel there was a debrief where students had the opportunity to talk to environmental science faculty and have a brief tour of Carr Hall's aquaponics system.