ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AWARDS

2013 - 2016
ABOUT THE AWARDS

Nominee Criteria

• Performance
• Responsible Management and Growth
• Outreach
• Academics
• Conservation
• Teamwork
ABOUT THE AWARDS

Categories

- Undergraduate Students
- Graduate Students
- Teams
- Student Groups
- Staff Groups
- Staff
- Environmental Partners
- Alumni
- Faculty
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT
EMILY MCINERNEY
WINNER

UConn Student Leadership:
• EcoHusky, President
• ECOalition, President
• OEP Intern

Key Initiatives:
• Earth Day Spring Fling Coordinator
• Facilitator of UConn Recycling Workgroup
• EcoHusky Waste Audit Facilitator

Academic Research:
• UConn Honors Student
• Natural Resources Major, CAHNR
• Recipient of Summer Undergraduate Research Award
  • Research on the relationship between wetlands and climate change

Post-Graduation:
• Peace Corps, Mexico
CAMERON MITCHEL
RUNNER UP

EcoHouse
- Event Planning
- Curriculum Creation
- Waste Reduction and Recycling Projects

ECOalition
- Geology Club and EcoHouse Representative
- ECOalition Representative to USG

Geology Club
- President
LUC DANG
RUNNER UP

Food Waste Tracker App Development

Startup Company: Phood LLC

• App for tracking food waste
• Provides advice on saving food
• Worked with UConn Dining Services
GRADUATE STUDENT
DAVE WANIK
WINNER

Education:
MS and PhD in Environmental Engineering
• Research on impact of wind on electrical power utilities
• Developed UConn Power Outage Prediction Model

Leadership Roles:
• Environmental Policy Advisory Council Member
• Contributed to foundation of Eversource Energy Center
• OEP Graduate Student Coordinator
Leadership Roles:

- President’s Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility
- CAHNR Graduate Student Council
- Served as Chair of the Co-Op and served on their board
- Appointed to the University’s Board of Trustees
- PhD. Thesis: Technology and Climate Change Mitigation
SIMONA AUGYYTE
FINALIST

Educator of Sustainable Aquaculture Technologies

Graduate Research on Aquatic Farming:

• Ecology and Evolutionary Biology TA
• Collaboration with Stamford’s Seaweed Biotechnology Laboratory
• Collaboration with Long Island Sound Farmers
• Collaboration with Maine Aquaculture Innovation Center
• Cultivating a new sea vegetable

Works with elementary schools to promote sustainability
• Member of St. Lucian delegation at the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change

• Lawyer’s Environmental Action Team
  • Tanzania - Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD)
  • Project for Peace

• PhD: Research in Human Ecology and International Studies

• Graduate Assistant to EcoHouse
TEAM
NEMO RAIN GARDEN OUTREACH TEAM

WINNER

Developed UConn’s Rain Garden Smartphone App
- Garden installation instructions
- Plant selection guidelines
- Drainage Charts
- Nearly 4,000 Downloads!

Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officers (NEMO) Program
- Perform rain garden trainings with Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven and Hartford

Eagleville Brook Restoration
- Lead projects in Mansfield in collaboration with Storrs Friends Meeting, Town of Mansfield, UConn, and DEEP
UCONN@COP21 TEAM
RUNNER UP

Organized Trip to the 21st Annual UNFCCC Conference of Parties

- 12 Students, 4 Faculty, and 2 OEP Representatives attended
- Secured University Funding for the trip
- Trip: One week in Paris, attended seminars and events related to the UN Climate Summit

Members

- Dan Weiner
- Zahra Ali
- Mark Urban
- Tracy Rittenhouse
- Oksan Bayulgen
- Anji Seth
STUDENT GROUP
SPRING VALLEY STUDENT FARM

WINNER

- Provide Local, Sustainable food to UConn
  - Whitney Dining Hall
  - Chuck & Augies
  - One Plate Two Plate
- Promote Organic Farming
- Attend Local Farmers’ Markets
- Farm Fridays: Student Volunteers
- Solar Thermal Greenhouse System
- IDEA Grant for Aquaponics System
HONORS COUNCIL
RUNNER UP

Ugly Endangered Animals Competition
  • Raised funds for Endangered Animals
  • Collaborated with other student groups

Alternative Recycling Initiative
  • Promotes bottle recycling

Environmental Movie Screenings

Participation in Earth Day Spring Fling
GROUP
Committed to Locally Sourced Food and Sustainability

- Serve food grown by Spring Valley Student Farm
  - Whitney Dining Hall
  - One Plate – Two Plate
  - Chuck & Augie’s
- Largest consumer of locally grown produce in Connecticut
- Partner with OEP to host zero-waste dining at Earth Day Spring
- Collaborated with CAHNR to host Tasty Waste Lunch

Green Restaurant Certification

- Buckley
- Whitney
- Gelfenbein
- Putnam
- South
- More in Progress
Living Laboratory

- Open up their facilities to UConn Faculty and Students as a research platform
- Provide internships for local high school students
- Regular tours of their facilities
JULIA CARTABIANO
WINNER

• Spring Valley Student Farm Manager
• Organizer of EcoHouse’s Symposia: “Just Food! Or Is It?”
• Farm Fridays Coordinator
• Hosts healthy cooking lessons for EcoHouse
• Works with NACUFS interns at Spring Valley Student Farm
• Hosts Insect Wonders at the Farm with UConn Extension
ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNER
CHRISTOPHER MASON
WINNER

- Consultant for Landfills and Wetlands
- Conducts wetland Restoration
- BioBlitz Participant
- Hiking Trail Maintenance

Hillside Environmental Education Park
- Tours
- Invasive Species Removal
- Aerial Photography
CONNECTICUT CENTER FOR ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY (CCAT) FINALIST

• Completed a Renewable/Sustainable Energy Strategic Plan (RESP) for UConn

• Helped secure a $2.14 million grant to develop a microgrid on Depot Campus

• Assisted in the development of UConn’s Electric Vehicle proposal
ALUMNI
**DR. MICHAEL DIETZ**

**WINNER**

- Program Director of CT NEMO
- Masters and Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut, focused on storm water and LID techniques.

**Environmental Educator**

- Obtained approval for LID education signage across UConn’s Storrs campus.
- Developed UConn’s LID Campus tour
- Leads educational tours of UConn’s LID features.
- Provides educational opportunities for students through NRCA
DANA BOYER
FINALIST

- Magna Cum Laude Double Degree: German Studies, Environmental Engineering from UConn
- MPhil in Engineering for Sustainable Development
- Currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Urban Food Strategies
- Recognized as an emerging leader in food systems by the Chicago Council of Global Affairs
- 2 Published Articles on the Water-Energy Nexus
FACULTY
DR. JAMES O’DONNELL
WINNER

Leadership
• CT Council on Environmental Quality
• Executive Director: CT Institute for Resilience & Climate Change
• Governor’s Council on Climate Change

Research
• Physical Oceanography
• Rising Sea Levels
• CT Water Quality
DR. MORTY ORTEGA
RUNNER UP

Leads annual Ecology/Natural Resources Trips to Patagonia and South Africa

- African Field Ecology is now UConn’s largest study abroad program
- Plans for new, research-based South Africa Program

Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources Committee Chair

Former Director of Global House
DR. PHOEBE GODFREY
RUNNER UP

Commercially Licensed Cooperative Kitchen (CLICK) Willimantic
  • Local community education on global environmental issues

Student Local Internship Setups
  • Homeless Shelters
  • Food Banks
  • Small Farms
SPECIAL RECOGNITION
Huskies Ending Food Waste Initiative

- Lectures from Food Waste Experts
  - CT Waste Reduction Efforts
  - Sustainable Urbanization
  - British Perspective of Food Waste
- Tasty Waste Lunch