2017 – 2018 Environmental Leadership Awards

April 4th, 2019
Welcome from Our Staff!

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6th biennial Environmental Leadership Awards

Perspectives Have Changed

Gregory J. Anderson
4 April 2019
It's 3:23 in the morning

It's 3:23 in the morning, and I'm awake because my great, great, grandchildren won't let me sleep.

My great, great, grandchildren ask me in dreams what did you do, while the planet was plundered?
what did you do, when the earth was unraveling?
surely you did something when the seasons started failing as the mammals, reptiles, and birds were all dying?
did you fill the streets with protest when democracy was stolen?
what did you do once you knew?

Drew Dellinger (part of a poem - http://www.greenworldtrust.org.uk/Wisdom/Dellinger.htm)
EXTREME WEATHER CAN FEEL NORMAL IN AS LITTLE AS 2 - 8 YRS (i.e., ‘Habituation’)

Graphic from the NYTimes – 5 Mar 2019
It's 3:23 in the morning, and I'm awake because my great, great, grandchildren won't let me sleep. My great, great, grandchildren ask me in dreams what did you do, while the planet was plundered? what did you do, when the earth was unraveling? surely you did something when the seasons started failing as the mammals, reptiles, and birds were all dying? did you fill the streets with protest when democracy was stolen? what did you do once you knew?

Drew Dellinger (part of a poem - http://www.greenworldtrust.org.uk/Wisdom/Dellinger.htm)
1969- student protest ---
Pres. Babbidge joins the Kazoo band
STEADY HABITS
1973-1990

THEN
1880s
REGIONAL NON-PROFIT LAND TRUST

Joshua's Trust

PROTECTING LAND AND PRESERVING HERITAGE. FOREVER.

Gurleyville Grist Mill (~ 1750)

Founded in 1966

61 properties
4,000 acres protected
13 Eastern CT towns
Fern Leaf Beech tree
south of Wilbur Cross
1942 ‘class tree’
DIVERSITY
~5,000 blue Tags
~100 genera of trees/shrubs
>300 species
40 notable trees on Tree ‘Tour’
1942 ‘CLASS TREE’

~20 still living

New

‘Endowment’

Fund for

Arboretum
What will the ‘Class of 2019’ Tree be?
TEALE SERIES ON NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT
~25 years
~150 speakers across disciplines

Climate Impact, Mitigation and Adaptation: A Reflection on Our Future

MARCH 2014

Pres. Herbst signing UConn climate action plan, CIMA - 2012

The University of Connecticut

Our Environment: A Dialogue on Change

April, 2013: Environmental Month and Teach-In

www.ecohusky.uconn.edu/outreach/cima.html

Friday, 5th April

Lecture on Silent Spring by Naomi Oreskes
The Humanities Institute
4:00pm, SU Theater
UConn Main Campus

Tuesday, 9th April

“The Legacy of Rachel Carson” Coastal Perspectives Lecture Series
7:30pm, Marine Science Building 103, UConn Avery Point

Wednesday, 17th April

Screening: “The Island President”
7:00pm, Laurel Hall 102, UConn Main Campus
7:00pm, Marine Science Building 103, UConn Avery Point

Thursday, 18th April

“Planning for a Changed Climate” by Frank Lowenstein & Adam Welchel, The Nature Conservancy
7:00pm, Mansfield Council Chambers

Monday, 29th April

For more information or to get involved, please contact:
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COMMON ELEMENTS
OF ARBORETUM, TEALE AND CIMA

‘Organic’ – w/o administrative direction; arose from shared commitment

University-wide

Committed undergrads, grads, staff & faculty

Implemented w/o administrative budget
"BONDING PROGRAM FOR INFRASTRUCTURE FROM STATE/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP
1995- UCONN 2000 - $1B
2002 – 21ST CENTURY UCONN - $1.3B
2013 – NEXT GENERATION UCONN - $1.7B

"NOW"
1995
• UCONN 2000—10 yr, $1 Billion-REBUILDING, RENEWING, AND ENHANCING THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

2002
• Rich Miller, hired to activate/energize! the new Office of Environmental Policy (Sustainability Office)

2002
• 21st CENTURY UCONN-- $1.3 Billion – Rebuilding, renewing, and enhancing the University of Connecticut

2004
• EcoHusky student group founded - UConn’s largest environmental student Group

2006
• the opening of EcoHouse-residential living and learning community

• Co-Generation plant at the Central Utility Plant begins operating, dramatically reducing fuel use. UConn’s carbon footprint reduced, & generates Renewable Energy Certificates and rebates from Eversource

2008
• remediation of the former landfill and chemical pits (recall an earlier time?), and creation, over time of the HEEP- Hillside Environmental Educational Park (65 acres)- with trails, maps, interpretive signs

• (2018 – HEEP expanded to today’s 165 acres with 3 miles of hiking/biking trails)

• 2008/09 - developed First Climate Action Plan

2010
• Climate Action Plan signed by former Pres. Hogan

• 800 ton/yr Ag Waste Compost Facility opened

• Spring Valley Farm – Students live and operate an organic farm
2012
• Pres. Herbst reaffirms Climate Action Plan

2013
• NEXT GENERATION CONNECTICUT --$1.7 Billion – to a decade of infrastructure enhancement at UConn, focusing on STEM

2015
• first students to the UN’s annual Climate Summit and Conference of the Parties (COP) – and 3 more annual event since. In 2017, in Bonn, signed UConn onto ‘We Are Still In’ (pledging support for the 2015 Paris agreement on climate change)

2017
• opened new ‘Main Accumulation Area’ for hazardous wastes

• Pres. Herbst, and UConn, became a member of Second Nature’s Climate Leadership Steering Committee (with 17 other university presidents/chancellors)

2018
• UConn Joined University Climate Change Coalition (UC3) - a consortium of 18 North American research universities- working to apply research to reducing greenhouse gas emissions & building resilience to the effects of global warming and sea level rise

• University Senate passes (after 2+ yrs background work) ‘Environmental Literacy’ requirement for all students—such curricular change very unusual

• the 15th, and first ever, Metanoia, on the ENVIRONMENT
A Good Place
Amazing accomplishments elicit impressive national and international recognition

- 2008 Joshua’s Trust Community Environmental Leadership Award
- 2008 Real Estate Exchange Green Building Award
- 2010-2011 Reclaimed Water Facility
- 2012 CTGBC Institutional Honor Award
- 2013 Power of Change Award
- 2014 NACFUS Sustainability Award
- 2014 Power of Change Award
- 2016 GreenCircle Sustainability Award
Sierra Club’s Cool Schools List

- 2012 - #5
- 2013 - #1
- 2014 - #9
- 2015 - #8
- 2016 - #9

UI GreenMetric Rating

- 2011 - Ranked #3
- 2012 - Ranked #1
- 2013 - Ranked #3
- 2014 - Ranked #7
- 2015 - Ranked #2
- 2016 - Ranked #4
- 2017 - Ranked #7
A SPLENDID TORCH - George Bernard Shaw (Nobel in Literature—1925)
A SPLENDID TORCH - George Bernard Shaw

This is the true joy in life, the being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one; the being a force of nature instead of a feverish, selfish little clod of ailments and grievances complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy.

I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community, and as long as I live it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can.

I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no “brief candle” for me.

It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations.
2016 -- UCONN students at Spring Valley Farm
Peter Morenus Photo
Undergraduate Student

2017 – 2018 Environmental Leadership Awards
Finalist

Taylor Mayes

- Chair of the USG Sustainability Sub-Committee
- University’s 1st Environmental Justice Art Show
- Undergraduate researcher in Dr. Anji Seth’s Climate Lab
- Former CIRCA Summer Intern
- COP@23 Fellow
- Communications Coordinator at the Connecticut Roundtable on Climate and Jobs
Runner Up

Xinyu Lin

• Holster Scholar
• UConn PIRE undergraduate researcher
• BOLD Scholar
• Volunteer for SOS Food Recovery
• Part of UConnPIRG's Zero Waste campaign
Winner

Benjamin Breslau

• Leadership on the GenEd initiative
• Chair of the Metanoia on the Environment
• SURF Award Recipient
• Undergraduate Researcher in the Rittenhouse Lab
• Office of Environmental Policy Intern (3+ years!)
• UConn@COP22 Fellow
• VP of EcoAlition
Graduate Student

2017 – 2018 Environmental Leadership Awards
Finalist

Joshua Litwin

• Energy & Sustainability Summer Associate for the City of Hartford Co-Founder of UConn's Net Impact Graduate Chapter
• Graduate Assistant for Eversource
• Peace Corps Volunteer (Mali 2009-2011)
• 5+ years as a Recruiter and Program Manager with USAID’s Office of Transition Initiatives
Runner Up

Nasya Al-Saidy

- Environmental economist
- Dissertation on reduction of emissions and pollutants
- Expert for the Humanities Institute conference
- Financial assistant for the Humility and Conviction in Public Life Capstone at the UConn Humanities Institute
- President of the Association of Graduate Economics Students
Winner

Georgia Hernandez Corrales

- Research on plant physiology and global warming
- Communicates research to rural communities in Costa Rica
- Awarded NSF-Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation - Research Fellowships
- Founder of Brenesii - a Social Enterprise, focused on activities that combine science communication and outreach for individuals in marginalized communities
Faculty

2017 – 2018 Environmental Leadership Awards
Runner Up

Jonathan Mellor

- Faculty Mentor and Responsible Engineer in Charge of UConn's chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB)
- Established partnership with Bahir Dar University in Ethiopia to establish a small-scale irrigation system
- Helped students identify new environmental sanitations projects in the Peruvian Andes
- Established a partnership with Brick-by-Brick in Kalisizo, Uganda
Winners

Jack Clausen & Dave Wagner

- Leaders of the Environmental Literacy GenEd effort
- Co-Chairs of the Metanoia on the Environment

Carol Atkinson-Palombo

- Chair of the General Education Environmental Literacy Task Force for UConn Senate
- Funding sub-committee chair for the Environmental Metanoia
Staff

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Finalist

Dianisi Torres

- UConn EFNEP educator and CLiCK education program coordinator
- Member of the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)
- Mentor for undergraduates involved in service learning at CLiCK
- Participates in the "Write Your Roots" community project in the Willimantic community
- Mentor for "Bridging the Gap", where she helps UConn students conduct service learning project
Runner Up

Elaina Hancock

• Reporter for UConn Today and UConn Magazine

• Reports on sustainability issues and initiatives to increase visibility of the topic to the campus community

• Her research press releases have been published by national and international publications

• Series "Climate Change in Our Backyard", explains climate change as it is affecting CT
Winner

Len Oser

• Instrumental in launching EcoCoin program at the Bookstore, where people refuse a plastic bag and donate 5 cents to charity
• 12,000 bags have been avoided and $600 was raised for various charities
• Handcrafted wood donation boxes in which to put the tokens
• Expanded to regional campuses in March 2019
UConn Group

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Finalist - Tie

Climate Corps
- Juliana Barrett, Chester Arnold, Michael Dietz, Bruce Hyde

- Outreach partnership of CLEAR
- Service learning opportunity
- 3 credit course on the local impacts of climate change
- 3 credit independent study to work with Extension faculty to assist CT communities in adapting to climate change
Finalist - Tie

Hillside Environmental Education Park (HEEP) HEEP Trail Dedication & Signage Team
- Robert Hunt, Benjamin Breslau, Paul Ferri, Tom Worthley, Sara Putnam, Kevin Noonan, Chris Mason, Cameron Faustman
  - Researched plants & animals common to the HEEP
  - Designed, constructed, & installed informational signage
Runner Up

USG Sustainability Sub-Committee

- Authored and successfully passed legislation supporting an Environmental Literacy GenEd requirement
- Hosted the Frontline Conversations: Gender and Climate Justice Panel and Art Exhibit
- Hoara events to promote DEI in the environmental movement
Winner

EcoHusky

• Leads student sustainability engagement & outreach

• Volunteered at Green Game Days, campus clean-ups, HEEP trail clearing, Celebrate Mansfield Festival, and the Hartford Marathon each year

• Hosts campus environmental film screenings

• Recycling Patrol, Stop the Drop, and plastic film/bags collection initiatives

• Attended the Yale Environmental Law Conference & Hartford Climate March
External Group

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Runner Up

Coca-Cola

- Participated in Earth Day Spring Fling
- Supported the Campus Sustainability Fund and UConn@COP program
- Presented multiple lectures on recycling to EcoHusky student group and a group of interested students, staff, and faculty
- Sponsored and participated in the "We Are Still In" Pavilion at COP23 in Bonn, Germany
Winner

Quantum Biopower

• Partnership with UConn to send all the food waste from the dining halls, diverting thousands of pounds of food each week
• Uses the energy created by the anaerobic digestion to generate electricity, or further refine to natural gas
• Participates in education outreach with the community
Sena Wazer

- President of the Cetacean Society International Youth Group
- Instrumental in the single-use plastic bag ban in Mansfield
- Invited to speak at the American Cetacean Society's annual conference
- Educational booths at the Mansfield Town Fair and the Willimantic Downtown Country Fair
- Meets with elected officials to lobby and educate in support of environmental policy
Special Recognition

John Volin

• Founded the Natural Resources Conservation Academy (NRCA), which focuses on three major initiatives:
  • CAP - Conservation Ambassador Program, 10-month program for high school students
  • CTP - Conservation Training Partnerships, cross-generational conservation learning project
  • TPL - Teacher Professional Learning, a 3-day professional development

• Instrumental in the creation of the new UConn Institute for the Environment
Lifetime Achievement

2017 – 2018 Environmental Leadership Awards
Gregory J. Anderson

- Forefather of environmental movement at UConn
- ACUPCC (Carbon Commitment) – 2008
  - Climate Action Plan - 2010
  - Reaffirmed - 2012
- Chair Arboretum Committee
  - Founder of class gift tree
- Co-Chair Teale Organizing Committee
Gregory J. Anderson
Thank You!