A weekly journal produced by the students of
The State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry
and your Student Activity Fee...
A Letter from the Editor:

SNOW! SNOW! SNOW! It won't be long until we're all covered with snow! It's hard to erase this word from about every conversation I have had or overheard within the past 48 hours. Currently, it's Thursday night and the snow is still coming down hard after the eventful snowstorm that swept through Syracuse starting Tuesday night. Really, I don't think we could've asked for anything better. I mean, I know it's not the most exciting thing to grab your shovel to dig out your car just to switch it over to the right side of the street, and then realize that you want to get something to eat which requires an adventure on un-plowed streets and sacrificing your freshly shoveled parking spot. Not to mention all the long hours spent by city workers, physical plant, landlords etc. clearing the streets and sidewalks only to see it completely covered over within the hour. But I must say that there is something special about snowstorms that I did see, and after all the hard work and tired arms from shoveling, I think it's well worth it.

Simply walking down Lancaster, I saw students helping an SU Medical Services truck out of a snow pile, a couple in the street kicking a big bouncy ball back and forth while they cheerfully asked me to join in, and if that wasn't enough action within five minutes I walked a little farther to see students jumping off their porch into their snow-covered lawns. Later that day, snow mobiles were whizzing down the street and SUVs were dragging boarders from the back of the car. Let's just say that this newly arrived winter wonderland brought the kid out in all of us. More than that, it also brought out generous acts by complete strangers. People with snow-blowers were offering to clear their neighbor's sidewalk, complete strangers were pushing peoples' cars out when they were stuck and others even went to the extent of running down the street with shovels to help the Centro bus get unstuck after it slid out of control. Even though it was Valentine's Day and many dinner plans accompanied with a romantic evening out on the town were cancelled, I think the snow storm created something that tops all the bouquets of flowers or boxes of chocolates that one can endure, and replaced the traditional activities with a day of excitement, fun, and helping hands.

Sarah Pallo
Editor-In-Chief
Over 200 people of all different cultures and backgrounds packed into Nifkin Lounge to take part in International Day at SUNY ESF. The event took place on Saturday, February 3, 2007 from 5pm-9pm. The tables were filled and many people stood around the room or sat on the floor during the performances. There were not enough seats for everyone.

Jaconette Mirck, a grad at SUNY ESF and the MC of the event, was the organizer of the event. She said GSA mostly funded the event, along with some money from Raydora Drummer and the Multicultural Society. International Day was being planned since the end of October and has been an annual event since 1989. It has been growing in popularity each year. Nikhil Bodhankar, an SU grad student going for his Masters of Electrical Engineering said, “It’s really important to advertise this event. The Slutzer Center for International Students did mention International Day, but the SU calendar did not. This event should be advertised more, it has become such a wonderful event, and I know some students that are performing. Facebook also advertised it. People will have to stand during the performance; this event should take place in a bigger room.”

One of the first things that people commented on when asked “what do you like best about the event” was the food. Maria, an ESF student said, “The food was so good. My favorite thing was the food and to see people from all over the world. It’s like the world compacted in one room.” Not only were the people from different countries around the world, but the food was as well, representing traditions from many unique places. There were foods from Europe, Asia, North America, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. A range of individuals, including students, professors and members of the community, prepared the food. One ESF Grad student commented, “I had a really good time, everybody enjoyed the food, at least my food, they kept coming! There were more people then I expected.” There were two lines reaching from the entrance to either side of Nifkin Lounge, but at least there was enough food to feed everyone who came. Also, a band played guitars while the people ate.

One ESF student said, “There are more ethnic groups then I can name,” referring to how he is enjoying all the diversity found in one place. Kim, another ESF student proclaimed, “look, there’s my flag!” while pointing to one of the many flags hanging from the walls.

Jaconette Mirck started the night by giving a presentation on the History of the Netherlands. All performers were dressed in the traditional clothing of the culture that they were representing. An Irish dance group danced traditional dances as well as a dance they made up entitled “The Garden of Peace.” In a later performance, a belly dancer danced while holding a snake that was coiled around her hand. Each couple of the Ukraine dancers wore traditional clothing from a different region of Ukraine.

Pranathi Adhikari, an Indian dancer who just turned five years old on International Day. lip-synced the words of the song while she danced. A girl that was with her said that she has been practicing the dance since she was three years old. Adhikari was born in Little Falls but thinks she knows everything about Nepal.

La Familia de la Salsa was the final group that performed. Their dance is a traditional circle dance performed on the streets of Cuba. The first part is choreographed; the rest is improvisational with someone calling out dance moves. The only problem that occurred during the night was technology failure with the music, and was the worst with the last performance. The music went on and off throughout their eight minute dance. At first one of the dancers yelled “that’s showbiz.” The improvisational dance also became interactive as the dancer asked the audience to keep a beat by clapping their hands whenever the music stopped. The dance was nevertheless enjoyable to all.
You're paying for it! Why not put it to use? Many students in ESF aren't conscious of the many facets that constitute their semester payment bill. Besides tuition, there are many other fees included in the overall charges, one of them being the student activity fee. This fee is one of the things most disregarded and overlooked by students attending ESF. According to a poll taken recently by the Undergraduate Student Association, 81% of students don't know how much the fee is. From my perspective, most people probably do not know what the student activity fee is or what it is used for on campus. If you're paying for it, why not know what it is and make good use of it?

The student activity fee, which is charged to every scholar each semester, is used for student groups, organizations, and many activities around campus. For example, the student activity fee sponsors most of the Earth Week costs. If you’re thinking of not participating in this event on the week of April 16th you should re-think your choice because you have already paid for it. Most of the clubs and associations here at ESF are supported by the student fee, such as the Soccer club, the Woodsmen’s team, the Habitat for Humanity club, the Forest Engineering club, the Bob Marshall club, the LAND|scape club, the Alchemist club, the Baobab society, and the Alpha Xi Sigma club; so why not be involved in what you are paying for? Many campus-wide student activities like morning munches, TGIFs, insomniac events, or more structured activities like the December Soiree, the Spring Banquet, and the Winter Weekend getaway are also paid for by every student that attends this great college.

However, every two years since 2003, the State University of New York administration asks every SUNY school to ballot a referendum in their school, asking every student whether they want the student activity fee to be mandatory or voluntary. This fee has remained mandatory so far. All registered undergraduate students pay the mandatory fee of $45 per semester, and this is what allows SUNY-ESF to fund all the various clubs and social events previously mentioned.

“If the majority of students voted for the fee to be voluntary, it would put clubs and activities on campus in jeopardy,” said Leah Flynn, the assistant director of student activities at ESF. She added that this is because clubs and activities may not have the possibility of having enough funds to support them. So think wisely about your answer when the question gets asked and remember that it’s only a small fee that does big things for you. The next poll will be taken in the last week of March this year.

There is also a smaller fee included in the fall semester's bill, which is the SU student activity fee. The President of the Undergraduate Student Association, Steve Fox, said, “a portion of the total student activity fee goes to SU, and that allows us to participate in any clubs, committees, organizations, or activities at SU.” He also commented “we only pay a portion of what full-time SU students pay, so we should not think we can do everything at SU for free like ice skate at Tennity ice skating pavilion.”

The bottom line is that students should take advantage of the opportunities here at ESF and explore how the student activity fee is put to use. These opportunities can give students amazing experiences that will last a lifetime. If you would like to get more information come to the Undergraduate Student Association meetings every Monday at 5:15pm in Nifkin lounge and let your voice be heard. Also, join committees and clubs on campus. If you would like to create your own club, come to 110 Bray and talk to Leah Flynn, who is always happy to help.

Carlos Rosales-Zelaya
Layout Editor Trainee

Opinion

Your Student Fee....

Providing you with everything.

The Knothole
Green Chemistry and Cradle to Cradle Product Design

A Lecture by Dr. Lauren Heine

Amanda Meyer
Judy Crawford
Contributing writers

Dr. Lauren Heine, Director of Applied Science for the GreenBlue Institute, gave a presentation entitled Green Chemistry and Cradle to Cradle Product Design on Tuesday, February 6, 2007 as part of SUNY-ESF’s Women in Scientific and Environmental Professions Spring Seminar Series. The Faculties of Chemistry, Paper and Bioprocess Engineering and the ESF Women’s Caucus jointly sponsored the event.

Dr. Heine’s lecture focused on material health and green chemistry’s contribution to it. Material health refers to products that are safe to both humans and the environment during their full life cycle, with a focus on design for safe, productive return to nature or industry. Material health is important because materials can directly and indirectly affect the health of entire ecosystems, as well as humans. After defining material health and its importance, Dr. Heine cited examples of both direct and indirect impacts of bad product design. Dr. Heine then turned her attention to strategies.

The four strategies for material health described by Dr. Heine were Know Your Product (Inventory), Know the Potential Impacts (Impact Assessment), Choose Green Chemical Products and Processes, and Remember the Big Picture.

“Knowing your product” means identifying all components and ingredients of the product, ideally down to 100 ppm. This strategy includes requiring full ingredient disclosures and creating lists of suppliers who are either preferred (P-list) or should be avoided (X-list) based on their product components.

“Knowing the Potential Impacts” means preventing harmful consequences by understanding the toxicity, hazard, and risks associated with your materials over their full life cycle. Toxicity refers to the adverse effects of exposure to various agents to living organisms and ecosystems. When assessing toxicity, it is important to keep the dose and the timing of the exposure in mind. Hazards include such things as extreme toxicity to humans and ecosystems, bioaccumulation, and more. Risk equals hazard multiplied by exposure.

“Choosing Green Chemical Products and Processes” includes selecting safer and healthier alternatives; designing healthy alternatives in collaboration with suppliers; and looking for emerging green chemistries and technologies. Green chemistry is the design of chemical processes and products to reduce and/or eliminate hazardous substances. Dr. Heine outlined twelve principles of green chemistry and provided examples of products and companies using green chemistry.

Dr. Lauren Heine received her doctorate in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Duke University. She is currently the Director of Applied Science at the non-profit institute GreenBlue. Dr. Heine is also directing the development of CleanGredients™ and the Sustainable Textile Metrics standard. In addition, she consults and publishes on issues relating to green chemistry, alternatives assessment and sustainable material flows.

The next lecture in this series, Global Warming: the science behind the headlines, is scheduled for Tuesday, March 6, and will feature Dr. Brenda Ekwurzel, Climate Scientist, Global Environmental Program, Union of Concerned Scientists, Washington, DC. This visit will also be part of Syracuse University’s Women in Science and Engineering Speaker Series. For more information, please visit http://www.esf.edu/womenscaucus.
This morning the Green Campus Initiative folks are set up in the Moon Foyer providing coffee to our Moon “customers” to entice participation in their activities. We are happy to support their efforts and I’ll take this opportunity to remind you of ways you can be green in Moon Library.

- If you carry it in, carry it out! ESF students are generally wonderful stewards of this earth and won’t think of dropping papers, food, cigarette butts or other trash on a mountain trail. Why not do we find these things in your Library. This is your space, part of your environment too.

- Use the recycling containers that are provided in the Library. There are many yellow baskets throughout the building for you to recycle paper. In the foyer you will find separate containers for trash, bottles, and batteries. There is even a compost bucket for food scraps.

- Don't leave your cigarette butts on the ground outside the Library! That's disgusting; use the butt receptacles (those green stands with a hole in the top that are on the patio.) And don't smoke close to the building. The “rule” is 20 feet from the building. Non smokers don't need to inhale your bad habit.

- Use the printer by the Online catalogs responsibly:

  1. Think before you print! Just because printing is free you don't need to print everything you see on the screen. You don't really need to print out every email or the full catalog record for a library book. You don’t always need to print the entire resource; select only what you really need. Read abstracts and decide what you need. Email items to yourself and look at them later if you can't decide in a hurry.

  2. Be patient. Pushing the print button repeatedly does not speed up the process; it just prints your request as many times as you push the button which creates much wasted paper.

- Pick up what you printed! We find many print jobs in the printers that no one claimed.

- Don't print power point slides on this printer. Use the computer lab for this kind of printing and be sure you set it up to print several slides on one page or use the outline view.

- Use the scrap paper that is provided for you adjacent to the printer for your notes. But don’t put this paper back in the printer!

- Excessive printing not only wastes paper it wastes toner (which is very expensive and is bad for the environment) as well.

- Recycle your toner cartridges (printer, fax, etc) in the Library. These cartridges go to Imaginette, a recycling company in Rochester who gives us up to $5 per cartridge to support Green Campus activities.

- Recycle your reading! Bring us your old novels etc. for the recycled reading shelves in the Library. We also welcome your used DVD's for our leisure DVD collection, built largely through donations of this kind.

- Read good literature about green issues. The Library (of course) has wonderful resources (printed and online) for your reading pleasure, enlightenment and education. The Library recently acquired Al Gore's The Inconvenient Truth in print as well as the popular DVD. If you haven't seen or read it you must. Check it out!

- Attend Green Campus Initiative Meetings: Every Thursday at 7 p.m. in Nifkin Lounge. Have a great semester. We look forward to seeing you in the Library and helping you with your information needs. Meanwhile, think green thoughts!
Hearing the Tree Fall

Composting at ESF:
An SU Student’s Perspective

Marissa Broe
Contributing Writer

Behind a greenhouse, to the left of a grave-yard and through a small patch of snow is what appears to be some sort of animal cage. For two students at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry this “cage” is something much more.

The wood and wire structure is a compost bin and junior Tina Notas’ and freshman Hannah Kane Morgan’s attempt along with the Green Campus Initiative at SUNY ESF for a greener campus.

“In 1992 there was a campus greening group that built a compost bin for campus,” Notas said. Somewhere along the way the program disappeared and Notas has spent a great amount of time to restore it.

The process, which Notas said, “took awhile,” required permission from various administrative forces on campus. In order to put the bin on campus the group went through the SUNY ESF Physical Plant. Certain considerations such as odor and small animals entering the bin had to be evaluated before approval was given she said.

At the end of last semester Notas and the Green Campus Initiative committee finally received permission to go forward with the project. Notas along with a group of students worked together to build the eight-by-four-foot “holding compost” bin, which would serve as the community bin for campus. This was the same type of system that had existed in 1992.

In keeping with the Green Campus Initiative, to “operate in an environmentally responsible manner” the students partially used recycled materials from an on-campus reconstruction site to make the bin.

With the community bin instituted a system of campus-wide composting could now be implemented. Morgan and Notas along with other Green Campus Initiative members worked to get smaller bins approved for on-campus sites. Again the students were required to get approval from the Physical Plant Notas said.

Moon Library, Illick Lounge, Gallery Snack Bar, and the Landscape Architecture studio are just a few of the sites that now have compost buckets. Green Campus Initiative members are responsible for emptying the smaller buckets into the community bin. Efforts were slightly delayed when the women tried to expand their program to the residence halls that house SUNY ESF students.

“It took probably two months to do it,” Morgan said about receiving permission from residence hall staff at her residence, Boland Hall.

Residence Director of Boland Hall Scott Blair explained the slow process.

“We weren’t sure what part of the compost process would be taking place in the residence hall,” he said. The worry was that the bacterial breakdown part of the compost process would be occurring in the residence hall Blair said.

Blair contacted his supervisor William Longcore, who set up a meeting with himself, Blair, and members of the Syracuse University maintenance staff to listen to the students’ proposal.

Morgan said that prior to the meeting “the staff really didn’t want it.”

At the meeting the women were required to communicate a proposal that explained the intent of the program and how it would serve the residence hall community, Blair said. The case was made and permission was granted for the implementation of two compost collection buckets: one on each of the SUNY ESF floors in Boland.

Morgan is responsible for emptying the compost buckets at Boland, which she said has had minimal student use.

Despite the minimal usage in the residence hall, Paul Otteson, the faculty advisor for the Green Campus Initiative, said students have been very active in the compost project as a whole.

The campus shared mixed responses with composting. Freshman Chuck Kelkenberg who lives on the male SUNY ESF floor in Boland admitted that he does not practice composting.

“I usually do when I am near a bin,” said Zach Papaleoni a senior at the college. Papaleoni, who lives off-campus, said that he has a compost pile accumulating at his house but he needs to learn how to efficiently set up a composting system.

The next step for the women toward a greener community is the inclusion of Syracuse University in the composting system. Mark Tewksbury, the Assistant Director of Food Services at the university said that he has been contacted about the initiative and that it is in the very beginning stages.

The university has been recycling things such as plastics for 15 to 20 years Tewksbury said. He added, “This is just another logical step.”

Food Services is interested in composting, but its reservations concern finding a large enough area to store the waste.

“We are willing to collect it,” he said in reference to the waste material, “but we don’t want it to end up in the trash.”

One place that staff at Syracuse University has looked into is nearby Ithaca College. Ithaca has been composting from its dining halls since 1993.

“In 1990 the college was required to pay tip fees,” Mark Darling, Recycling and Resource Management Program Coordinator for Ithaca said. “The compost was a real incentive to save money for the college.”

In order for Syracuse University to totally compost Darling said it would take “$5 million,” but it would ultimately save money. Despite the immense size of the university Darling said a compost program is possible.

“If you find commercial operations to take it off site you can make a partnership,” Darling said about the university’s compost. Through a commercial partnership Syracuse University could supply a local farmer with its compost to grow produce to then use within the university’s food services Darling said.

Ithaca has also implemented a program for students who live in apartments on campus which allows them to bring their compost to a community bin for removal. This is a program that the Green Campus Initiative also has planned for the future.

The Green Campus Initiative intends to install a community bin near SUNY ESF’s Baker Hall Notas and Morgan both said. Many of the streets located near Baker Hall are residences for students who will be able to use the bin.

“We’re starting to see our product,” Notas said referring to the compost program. “It’s exciting.”

“It’s really hard to measure success in big ways,” said Paul Otteson of the Green Campus Initiative. “Success is when students working together has an impact on staff. Students come and go but if you can get the physical plant people to build this into the operations of the college it will work”
The Tip of the Iceberg
Where lost poems find their home

Untitled
By Liz Kaczynski

Sometimes we know
What we want to do
Other days
Completely clueless

Some days you are late for class
Dent your car
And forget your umbrella

Sometimes the sun feels
Especially good
Or your coffee is
Just right

Some days you cant
Possibly get out of bed
Or off the couch

And some days you hike 20 miles
And stay up to see
The sunrise

Some days you are
So lonely

Some days you are surrounded
By so many people you
Don’t know what to
Do but its ok
Because you want them there

But whatever kind of day it is
It’s always exciting

To see what kind of day
Tomorrow is.

The Sound Spectrum

Funk'n Waffles (Located right under Chuck's):
2-16-07
Treme Trio with The Flavour
Tootsie tapping, pelvic grinding, ass exploding FUNK!
Doors open @ 9pm and show @ 10pm
$5 @ door
All ages

2-17-07
Ra Ra Riot with The Sister Lovers and Vampire Weekend
Sure to be a high energy show with this line up.
$8 before 10pm and $10 after, All Ages
8pm doors
Winter Jam:
2-17-07
It's called Winter Jam and here is how it works:
Full access to 5 bars for only 5 bucks!!!
All bars located down in Syracuse's Hanover Square
Each bar will have a multi-band lineup and music will be roughly 8:00 pm to close.

Coffee Pavilion
8-9 Nick Mazzeo
9-10 Jason Bean
10-11 Creature
11-12 Vapor Aevum
12-1 Showdown at the Pier

Bull and Bear
8-9:00 3rd and Main
9-10:15 Space Agency
10:15-11:00 Verno
11:30-12:45 Assassin's of Hip
12:45-2 Monocle

Downtown Manhattans
8-9 6 lb Bucket
9-10:15 Argonauts
10:15-11:10 Scraping Bottom
11:30-12:45 Candid
12:45-2 Temporal 3 Pattern

Quigeys Tavern
8-9 Wagner
9-10:15 Mood Swing
10:15-11:00 The Ward
11:00-12:45 Muzzlestomp
12:45-2 Dowittle

Burgundy Lounge
8-9 Mercer
9-10:15 Vote for Pete
10:15-11:30 Coup de Grace
11:30-12:45 Red Moon Mourning
12:45-2 The Brethren

Mezzanotte Lounge (658 N. Salina St.):
2-16-07
On Th e Sly (www.onthesly.org/)
$5

Mark Erelli
Earnest, thoughtful songs born of honesty and true passion

Where: May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society
3800 East Genesee St, Syracuse, NY
just inside the Syracuse city limits from Dewitt

When: Friday, March 2, 2007
Admission: $10
Hey Fans of Stumpy Feelings!
After a loong break stumpy feelings is back for your enjoyment!

Kristy is going to try to put it in the DO, but she is looking to change the title of the strip! Any Ideas, shoot her an e-mail at Klblakel@syr.edu

Warmer Days are Coming....
Lighthouse International is offering 2007 Scholarship Awards for students who are legally blind. Applications are available in the ESF Financial Aid Office or at www.lighthouse.org/scholarships. Letters of recommendation and an essay are required. Application deadline is March 2, 2007.

**RELAY FOR LIFE**
is coming up. The event is being held at the Carrier Dome on Saturday, March 24th at 7pm through Sunday, March 25th at 7am. Please be sure to sign up your team soon, which can be done online at:

www.acsevents.org/relay/ny/syracuseuniversity

Please spread the word about this fun and inspirational event!

**Community Art Show**

Featuring student, faculty, and community art

Hosted by the Committee on Women and Art and Jerk Magazine

The Spark Contemporary Art Space (1005 E Fayette Street)

Art Show Opening Night
February, Thursday the 15th at 5pm

**Spend your spring Break in West Virginia!**

With SUOC for $150!!!!!!!

**it is the cheapest spring break on campus**

Next Meeting is Feb.27 @7:30pm, 207 Hall of Languages.

The Author of “How it all Vegan”
Sarah Kramer
Is coming to campus
Tuesday February 20th, at 7:00pm
in room 500 in
The Hall of Languages.

**To all Stumpies,**

Yearbook is holding a photo contest this year. Categories are:
Black and white
Nature/landscape
ESF Life

Winners will see their photo in the yearbook!!!!

All entries are due by April 25 and may be used by Empire Forester.

Should be sent to esfempireforester@yahoo.com or put into our mailbox outside the Gallery.

**To all Freshmen and RAs,**

The yearbook will have a few pages exclusively for the freshmen floors and RAs.

Please send your pictures to esfempireforester@yahoo.com or put into our mailbox outside the Gallery. Due no later then March 30th .

Looking for Additional Assistance with Education Expenses?
The Beverly Whaley Scholarship
Sponsored by the Women of the University Community
Available for Academic Year 2007-2008

Female students entering their sophomore, junior or senior year of undergraduate study at ESF are eligible for this $500 award. The scholarship is awarded on the basis of academic merit and financial need and preference may be given to a student from the Adirondack region of New York State.

Applications for the Beverly Whaley Scholarship must be completed by March 7, 2007 and are available in the ESF Development Office, 214 Bray Hall.
Syracuse University Outing Club Presents:

Banff Mountain Film Festival
Tuesday, February 20th 7pm
GRANT Auditorium
$6 Undergrad/ $10 General Public
Tickets at Schine Box Office or at EMS in Fayetteville
Club Meetings:

The Knothole Thursday at 8pm in B9 Marshall hall
Woodsmen Team meets every Monday and Thursday at 6:45pm at the green houses behind Bray hall
Society of American Foresters meets every Monday at 5:15 in 212 Marshall Hall
Syracuse University Outing Club meets every Tuesday at 7:30 in 207 Hall of Languages
Green Campus Initiative meets every Thursday at 7:00pm in Nifkin Lounge
Creative Minds meets Tuesdays @ 5pm @ Illick 11.
ESF Acapella meets most Saturdays @ 4pm in Nifkin lounge.
USA (Undergraduate Student Association) meets every Monday at 5:15pm in Nifkin Lounge.
Syracuse Animal Rights Organization: Thursdays, 11/30, 12/7, 7PM, Room 421, Hall of Languages

Get your weekly dose of vitamin BRAIN! Drop in at the ESF Peer Tutoring Sessions:

Zoology: Mondays 6-8pm in 109 Moon
Calculus: Tuesdays 5-7pm in 109 Moon
General Chemistry II: Wednesdays 5:30-7:30pm in 109 Moon
English as a second language: TBA

For more information, to request a private tutor, or to become a tutor,

stop in the Academic Success Center (109 Moon Library), visit www.esf.edu/tutoring, call 470-4919, or e-mail tutoring@esf.edu