Carleton Named Among Greenest College Campuses

Carleton has once again received recognition for being a leading liberal arts college, and this time not just for its academic reputation. An article in the April 6, 2001 issue of The Chronicle Review ranked Carleton as one of the top eleven greenest college and university campuses. Instead of the traditional methods of ranking colleges and universities, which are usually based on criteria like reputation or faculty resources or alumni giving, the article was a refreshing examination of how colleges stack up against each other based on their attempts to behave and function sustainably. The article considers Carleton to be a model of how a small college can become “green,” and highlights several reasons for Carleton’s high ranking: (1) The appointment and funding for the ENTS 5th year Educational Associate position, (2) the creation and function of the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) to discuss and advise the college about environmental and sustainable considerations concerning the management and development of the college, (3) its effort to establish a working composting system that includes student housing and dining halls, and (4) the continued application for grants that would allow for the expansion of the ENTS program. Although we should be proud to have Carleton ranked so highly in terms of the environmental and sustainable considerations on campus, there is much still to be done. The college took a major step in the right direction when the Board of Trustees passed the Environmental Statement of Principles last May, which indicates Carleton’s commitment as an institution to incorporating environmental and sustainable ideas into all planning and management aspects of the college. Nevertheless, with examples of the policy and activities at colleges like Northland in Wisconsin and Middlebury in Vermont, it is evident that much more can and should still be done. As a leading liberal arts college, Carleton ought to maintain and promote an emphasis on functioning as environmentally and sustainably as possible. The entire Carleton community deserves credit for making the college one of the nation’s greenest campuses. Keep up the good work, and let’s continue the effort to be the model for a green campus!

Tree Free Paper Campaign Successful
(Article originally appeared in the Carletonian)
Upper class students will remember the Tree Free Paper petition circulated during earth week last year. The petition and other organizing efforts spearheaded by MPIRG—with a coalition including Carleton Democrats, Canoe House, Greenhouse, and SOPE—succeeded: much of the 8.5x11 white paper that Carleton now uses is either 100% post-consumer recycled or 30% post-consumer recycled paper. Last year, the highest recycled content of any white 8.5x11 paper used on campus was 30%, and only a few offices on campus used it; the rest used virgin paper. This year most copiers on campus (all of those in public labs) use 100% tree free paper, and several offices are using 30% in printers. This is a big step in the right direction for Carleton College, as it seeks to become a model of sustainability and stewardship of the environment. Another heartening sign is the willingness of Printing and Mailing Services to work with students to increase Carleton’s use of recycled paper. Students interested in working on this and other grassroots campaigns are welcome to attend MPIRG meetings every Tuesday at 9 pm in Sayles 251.

- Submitted by Dan Shinn-Krantz
  Sophomore,
  Member of MPIRG

This newsletter was produced by the ENTS Educational Associate Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz. He can be contacted at jmulvii@carleton.edu. Submissions are encouraged.
What Are Your ENTS Profs Up To?

At a recent ENTS faculty meeting, ENTS professors were asked to share their current research interests and explain what motivates their research and their teaching. Here is what they said:

Mary Savina (Geology):
Professor Savina is interested in landscape change (on a geologic timescale of course), specifically examining the effects of climate, tectonics, and human activities. She is particularly interested in using the Cannon River watershed as a case study for examining landscape change as well as in developing techniques to describe that change. Professor Savina’s ENTS courses this year include: Geomorphology, Hydrology, and Intro to Environmental Geology.

Bereket Haileab (Geology):
Professor Haileab is currently interested in researching the impacts of non-point source contaminants (from farm fields, streets, mining sites, golf courses, etc) on the geochemistry of natural watershed systems. He is interested in changes evident in local watershed systems, and in monitoring these changes annually. Professor Haileab will be teaching Geochemistry of Natural Waters during spring term.

Phil Camill (Biology):
Professor Camill’s current research interest is on boreal ecosystems, which include peat lands. In particular, he is examining the impacts of global warming on these ecosystems as well as the paleobiology of these areas. He applies much of his research to studies of local ecosystems in the Cowling Arboretum. Professor Camill’s ENTS courses this year include: Ecosystem Ecology, Global Change Biology, Ethics and Values Colloquium (spring), and Topics in Paleobiology.

Norm Vig (Political Science):
Professor Vig is in the process of coming out with the 5th edition of his co-edited book Environmental Policy. He is also involved in the Green Giants Project, which is focused on examining the interaction and policy decisions between Europe and the United States concerning environmental issues. Professor Vig’s ENTS courses this year include: International Environmental Law and Politics and Energy and the Environment.

Will Hollingsworth (Chemistry):
Professor Hollingsworth is interested in incorporating a quantitative emphasis in his courses, which he feels has been lost during recent years. He is interested in earth system science, which involves combining chemistry with a global approach to systems analysis. Professor Hollingsworth will be teaching Global Biogeochemistry.

Gary Wagenbach (Biology):
Professor Wagenbach uses pressing local watershed questions and problems to set his research agenda. He is actively involved in research on a variety of conservation biology topics, including the status of rare freshwater mussels in the Cannon River and a dam removal project in the Cannon River Watershed. Professor Wagenbach’s ENTS courses this year include: Envisioning Landscapes and some courses on the Australia/New Zealand program that he leads during winter term.

Deborah Gross (Chemistry):
Professor Gross is interested in the chemistry of air pollution, focusing her research on airborne aerosol particles. She wants to determine the impacts of quantifying air pollution particles on regulatory policy and its implications for global climate change and human health. Professor Gross will be leading the Ethics and Values Colloquium during winter term.

Dale Jamieson (Philosophy/ENTS Director):
Professor Jamieson is working on putting out a new book entitled Morality’s Progress: Essays on Animals and Nature. He has also published several smaller works on subjects such as electric and magnetic fields and junk science. Professor Jamieson’s ENTS courses this year include: Environmental Ethics, Philosophy of the Arts, and Environmental Justice.

ENTS SDA:
The ENTS student departmental advisor this year is Alyssa Thomas. If you have any questions about ENTS classes or concentration tracks feel free to contact her via e-mail at thomasa@carleton.edu.

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