

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

SUSTAINABILITY FAIR 2011



Fall 2011 CIVIC

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"This has truly become a premier event of interest to students, homeowners and community members"
-Thad Mantaro
Civic Engagement Coordinator



Once again SUNY Oswego opened its doors and invited numerous students, homeowners, and community members to learn everything under the sun, and wind, that will make their lives green. The 2011 Sustainability Fair was held on April 13 in the SUNY Oswego Campus Center Arena and remained the region's only sustainability fair. Similar to last year's inaugural Sustainability Fair, it ran as the culmination of "Quest," a day long celebration of faculty and student research, scholarship, and creativity.

The fair provided the opportunity to educate fairgoers about the environment as well as let them know what current sustainable technologies were available. The fair featured local businesses, nonprofits, and college-based organizations that contribute to a cleaner environment. Vendors featured ecologically safe paints and cleaning products, environmentally responsible office products, solar and wind energy contracting, algae that could clean oil from water, hydroponic produce growing methods, sustainable farming, natural foods, permaculture, and alternative energy technologies.

Chris Carrick of NYSEDA provided information about home energy efficiency and possible tax incentives, while Jeff Wagner of the state Public Service Commission provided information on green appliances and other sustainable home solutions. To

showcase the college's new apartment complex, The Village, Ashley McGraw Architects hosted a booth providing information on the components that qualify it for LEED Gold, a top Green Building Council certification. A number of student groups also came out and were represented well, including the Go Green Team, the Campus Composting Initiative, Students in Free Enterprise, and Students for Global Change.

The highlight of the evening however revolved around the alternative fuel car expo. General Motors provided a viewing and test rides for the 2011 Chevrolet Volt electric car, as well as Chevrolet Equinox, a fuel cell prototype car. A GM spokesperson was also available to provide presentations on what GM is doing with alternative fuel technologies. Also in attendance was Clean Communities of Central New York showed a Honda Civic GX which is fueled by compressed natural gas, and a plug in Toyota Prius. Finally, there were two hybrids, a Honda CRZ Hybrid and a Toyota Prius, provided by Burdick Honda and Lamacchia Toyota respectively.

The fair is sponsored by SUNY Oswego and an ad hoc group of college and community members; it is part of the college's Quest Day of research and Creativity. The Fair is co-sponsored by the American Chemical Society and SUNY Oswego Auxiliary Services.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AWARDS

The Civic Engagement Awards are given out at the Student Involvement Awards ceremony near the end of the spring semester. Still in its infancy, the awards began being handed out in 2010. These awards are meant to identify and recognize students and student organizations who have actively worked toward real change in their local, regional, national or international communities.

There are three awards given out:

First, the Agent of Change Award is given to a student who recognizes a need or problem on campus or in the community and works to address the need or solve the problem. This year the award was given to Alisia Engle. Alisia was able to recognize the interest in sustainability at SUNY Oswego and organize the student body to act on this interest. She held positions in many organizations including a sustainability internship with Student Life, Students for Global Change, Students in Free Enterprise, culminating in the creation of the Go Green Team.

Second, the Civic Leadership Award is given to a student who has demonstrated a sustained commitment to civic engagement on the campus or in the community. This year, two students received the award. Ryan Kelly, the president of the Political Science Club, during the 2010 election season invited every local candidate to campus so that students would be better informed. Following the tacit rule that all candidates for an office should be invited, he worked tirelessly to coordinate schedules to ensure each candidate was invited. He put in extraordinary effort to get the candidates

to campus, and was able to get candidates from a range of political parties. He hosted two candidates for the state senate, two gubernatorial candidates, a congressional representative and candidate, a state assembly candidate, and also a member of the Canadian Parliament (in conjunction with Constitution Week).

Our second recipient of this award was Grace Maxon. Grace is a founding member of Students for Global Change. She led shoreline cleanups, the Campus Zip Car initiative, and developed a campus wide composting initiative. She aided The Oswego Tree Stewards as an advocate for trees and raising awareness of trees and the positive impact trees can have on our environment. Addressing global concerns, she saw a need for surplus books and advocated for, and helped enact, the donation of books to third world countries.

Finally we have the Organization Civic Leadership Award recognizing a student organization that has demonstrated sustained commitment to civic engagement on the campus or in the community. This year's winner was Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE). SIFE has worked with students, businesses, community members to address critical financial and financial (literacy) concerns through programs like MoneySmart, Campus Kiva, Heifer International, OnPoint for College, the CarrotMob, and Team Guatemala. The organization has helped promote the importance of financial skills. As a result of this impressive level of expertise and knowledge base, this organization recently won its third consecutive Regional Championship.

Agent of Change Award

Alisia Engle

Civic Leadership Award

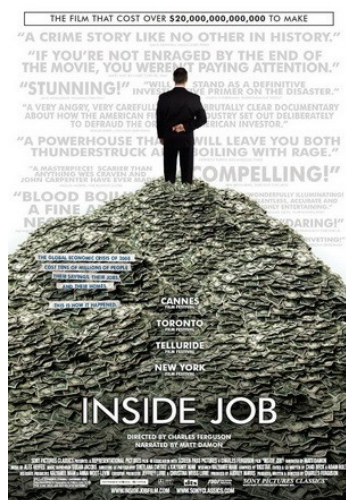
Ryan Kelly

Grace Maxon

Organization Civic Leadership Award

Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE)





"INSIDE JOB"

In late March, The SUNY Oswego Civic Engagement Program teamed with The Oswego Film Group and The SUNY Oswego Economics Department to provide a screening of the 2010 Academy Award winning documentary, "Inside Job." The movie's accurate tagline claims "This film cost over \$200 trillion to make." This is true considering the film provides a comprehensive analysis of the 2008 global financial crisis which caused millions to lose their jobs and homes with an estimated cost of \$200 trillion.

Following the showing a question and answer session was held to discuss the documentary. The screening was well attended by students interested in the major financial recession. The discussion focused on why the crisis became out of control, and ended with possible solutions and preventative measure to ensure this type of event does not take place again.



THE EGYPTIAN REVOLUTION

Discourse, Uprising, and Activism

At the end of January 2011, there was an uprising aimed at the regime of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. The uprising consisted of millions of protesters from a variety of socio-economic backgrounds and religious beliefs. While mostly peaceful civil disobedience protests, marches, demonstrations, and labor strikes, some protests were marred with violence.

This became one in an increasing number of Arabic Rebellions known as the "Arab Spring." Beginning in late 2010 protests and rebellions have swept across the region and have included revolutions, civil wars, and protests and conflicts.

On March 10th, to provide a greater understanding of the issues in Egypt as well as throughout the Middle East, SUNY Oswego Civic Engagement and the Political Science Department showed a screening of a Frontline documentary "Revolution in Cairo."

Following the documentary was a discussion concerning the Egyptian Revolution and Arab Spring. The discussion was led by Assistant Professor of Political Science Dr. Lisa Glidden.



Demonstrators in Cairo's Tahrir Square on 8 February 2011

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

SUNY Oswego
145 Campus Center
Oswego NY, 13126
Phone: 315-312-5745
E-mail: civic@oswego.edu

Check us out on the web
www.oswego.edu/civic



SUNY Oswego Civic Engagement



Office Staff

Thaddeus Mantaro, M.S.

Civic Engagement Coordinator

103 Rich Hall

(315) 312-3084

thaddeus.mantaro@oswego.edu

Charles Ballon

Graduate Assistant

Campus Center, Room 145P

(315) 450-0245

ballon@oswego.edu



OFF GRID LIVING

**"Oh, my gosh!
He's living in a
house made of
trash!"**
-Jim Juczak

Oswego Alumni Jim Juczak (Class of 1980) returned to campus on March 7th to provide the students and community members information about sustainable living. Jim along with his wife Krista and their 11-year old daughter live on a 55 acre community named Woodhenge. His home is built from mostly unused or thrown away "junk." Down to the mortar on the walls, which is 80% paper sludge, the house is the example of sustainable living. The 18-sided 3,000 square foot luxury home was created from support beams salvaged from a bowling alley. A two-story concrete column supports the center of the house and was made from scrapped manholes. Windows, interior doors, sinks, tubs and other materials were bought cheap or salvaged for free after being removed from renovated buildings.

He was able to entertain the crowd and provided the fundamentals of sustainable living including how to make a wind turbine, growing and preserving your own food, as well as building his luxury home for about \$20,000.

