

**Save the Date:**

- Look out for Green Campus emails over the summer. Interns will be continuing projects throughout this time.

**Points of interest:**

- New ideas from the June conference
- Green Jobs Career Panel
- Update on TGIF Proposal

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**New ideas from the June conference**  
By Kelly Li

Los Angeles Trade  
Technical College

The annual California Higher Education Sustainability Conference was held at Los Angeles Trade Technical College on the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June. During the conference different companies and schools introduced both new green technologies and ideas to help this world become a more sustainable place to live. The UC Irvine Green Campus team has planned a couple of new projects for next year based on the ideas during the sessions.

Green Campus interns from San Diego State University demonstrated an energy saving project of adding night covers to the open fridges in the dining areas. A night cover is used to cover the open refrigerators at night time when it is not in use, it will retain the temperature better when the cold air is not circulating throughout the room. The project resulted in savings of 8,600 kwh per year per refrigerator unit, with a payback time of about 14 months. UC Irvine has the same problem with open fridges and it is a no-brainer project idea for the Green Campus interns to implement.



Another interesting project idea was to retrofit lighting in buildings. Retrofitting lighting is one of the easier techniques used to save electricity. By simply changing the light tubes from normal T-12 to T-8 can save building thousands of dollars every year and thousands of kwh. At UCI, Green Campus has already suggested to the dining commons to change their lighting system from 75 W light tubes to 25 W lights which will save around two thousand dollars a year just for the kitchen area. For next year Green Campus has decided to pick up a new challenge to retro fit normal light tubes into LED lights in the libraries. The project could start off with a pilot area and test how much electricity can be saved by changing the lights to LED. According to other campuses the payback period for the installation is about three to four years.





## Green Jobs Career Panel By Cynthia Leung

The 2010 California Higher Education Sustainability Conference offered a variety of exposure to students looking to enter the green workforce. One of these events included the Green Jobs Career Panel, sponsored by the Alliance to Save Energy. On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010, five green workforce professionals from diverse backgrounds participated on the panel.

One of the panelists, Leith Sharp, a keynote speaker at the opening plenary, stated that there is “not a clear roadmap in the sustainability field” and that “building good relationships with colleagues, networks, and mentors will open you to many opportunities.” This actually was a reoccurring theme as each panelist provided more information about themselves and advice on the future of green careers. Other panelists included Teri Cohan Link, the founder of the company LINKCO, that helps emerging technologies find funding and a market; Jane Paul, a coalition leader who focused on policy works, green workforce development, and various Green Economy initiatives; Tallchief Comet the sustainability director and Green Campus stakeholder at California State University Chico, and Leslie Fram, a consultant who just switched in the green workforce after twenty years of working in the entertainment industry.



The panelists advised students to take as many opportunities to get involved in internships and jobs before graduating to allow exploration in different careers. By doing so, students would receive the experience to put on their resumes and also gain an idea of whether they would actually like to work in a particular job or not. In addition to this, people skills came up as a piece of advice. Most of the panelists told attendees about their experiences in interacting with people in the workforce and how politics and knowing how to resolve conflicts were essential skills in the work place.



When asked about how to prepare for careers, the panelists responded with some great advice. Sharp began the conversation by saying that, “Not only do you have to prove that you are the best person for the job, need to prove that there is a need for a job.” Many green jobs are being created and the panelists directly addressed this issue. One of the best quotes that summed up this topic was from Sharp, “Look at yourselves, know what you can do, and go out and get ahead of the [sustainability] curve and the opportunities will come your way.”

In relation to the discussion of marketing yourself to create a green job, there was also an overall emphasis of flexibility and taking risks. Comet said that “[you] have to be a very flexible person that does a lot of inner reflection and is willing to make leaps of faiths in yourself to make sure that you have the inner confidence that you're making the right choices that will bring you to the right spot.” He spoke about how he had to take chances multiple times on his career that weren't always the easiest to take, but got him to the job he was working in now. An even bigger example of this was Leslie Fram. Her background consisted of performing arts and magazine editing before she decided to jump into the waste management program at UCLA. Her reason for joining the field was to go into a different industry with tons of opportunity to grow and start a business as an entrepreneur.

Overall, this panel offered a variety of advice on issues pertaining to flexibility, preparation, and confidence in people's own selves to know that they can very well steer the course of the future of sustainable jobs.

## UCI interns complete office audit By Henna Pithia

After completing their first round of office audits at UCI, Green Campus interns are working hard to compile data in these beginning summer weeks. Preliminary results indicate the audited offices are already very efficient. Occupancy sensor lights, daylighting, and surge protectors were common in all office spaces. ENERGY STAR appliances such as printers, fax machines, as well as the energy saving sleep modes were in use on many appliances in the offices. Some of the recommendations for office staff include minimizing the use of miscellaneous plug loads such as electric pencil sharpeners, heaters, and personal printers in each office space. Faculty using the common kitchen area could also reduce the amount of energy being used by using one large, common fridge, instead of two mini fridges. In addition, the multiple appliances in the office kitchen, such as a coffee maker, toaster, and oven, could all be plugged into a surge protector instead of individually in order to eliminate their phantom loads. In doing these office audits, interns are helping make UCI a more energy efficient and aware campus.



## Teaching energy efficiency By Henna Pithia

The Green Campus program is proud to announce that it will be collaborating with Mesa Court housing staff to put on a class centered around energy and sustainability. The class, which Mesa staff members are planning on offering some time during the 2010-2011 academic year is currently in the planning stages, but will focus on educating residents about how to live a sustainable lifestyle in and outside of the dorms. The class will touch upon areas such as energy efficiency, water conservation, and sustainable eating habits. The class could also potentially incorporate visits by esteemed UCI professors in order to teach residents about the scientific and social aspects of sustainability that professors have studied in depth. Another potential avenue for the class would be to incorporate outreach to other clubs and organizations on campus such as the Green Campus Program, the Real Food Challenge, TGIF, and Students for Sustainability. Green Campus hopes to help educate first year residents about the differences they can make in the hall and in their behavioral changes. In a way, interns see this class as an extension of their Sustainable U educational series program which was held in residence halls all over Mesa and Middle Earth during the 2009-2010 academic year.

Continuing to work with Mesa Court stakeholders such as Jennifer Gamble (Complex Coordinator) is going to be a fun, educational, and interesting experience not only for Green Campus interns, but for incoming residents. Collaborating to create this class in Vista will serve as another opportunity to help educate residents about how they can save energy in the dorms in the hopes that they will adopt these changes into their daily lifestyle, habits, and ultimately pass on the knowledge and tips to friends, family, and the rest of the world.

## Update on TGIF Proposal. By Bogdan Rusu

The winning projects that the UCI Green Initiative Fund (TGIF) chose to fund this year were announced. Green Campus is ecstatic to publicize that we received the green light for our \$8000 retrofit project. Green Campus intern and project lead Bogdan Rusu went into the ASUCI office and signed the contract that will allow ASUCI to establish an account under his name, that can be used to make the necessary purchases. The contract will cover costs for 18

sensor faucets, and many of our favorite items such as shower timers, water clocks, t-shirts, and our all-time favorite, smencils. The faucets will be installed in Vista Hall, the sustainability themed hall, as discussed in the project preview in a former edition of our newsletter. We are working with housing to get the faucets installed during the 2010 summer, so that the new wave of freshman that will choose to spend their first year in a sustainability themed environment will enjoy the retrofit. Sensor faucets are much more efficient than conventional faucets. Vista hall is currently drawing 60,000 gallons of water on average per month. It is projected that the automated faucets will help reduce that number by 3000 to 4000 gallons. In a year that means 48,000 gallons of water. That amount of water can fill up more than 9 pools 230 feet by 230 feet in dimensions and 16 feet deep. We will mention our progress with this project in upcoming issues.



## Fume hood Competition Award Luncheon By Cynthia Leung



“The fume hood competition was a great success; the winners relaxed and enjoyed a sponsored pizza luncheon in the presence of the beautiful view seen from the 5<sup>th</sup> floor balcony of Natural Sciences II ”

- Intern Bogdan Rusu

Congratulations to the labs of Dr. Siwy and Dr. Potma! These two labs saved the most energy with the greatest percent reduction in fume hood sash height during our fume hood competition in the 2009 winter quarter. On June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010 the winners of our fume hood competition enjoyed a Green Campus sponsored pizza luncheon on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor balcony of Natural Sciences II. Thank you to all the labs who participated in the competition and to the Environmental Health and Safety Coordinators of Biological Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Biomedical Engineering, David Melitz, Rama Singh, and Joseph Rizkallah! Let us continue the path to higher energy conservation in UCI's labs!