Seniors Invited to Apply Now for Baird Sustainability Fellows

Every fall semester, seniors from all majors and all academic divisions are invited to apply for candidacy as Baird Sustainability Fellows. The establishment of the college-wide honors program for sustainability, the Baird Sustainability Fellows program recognizes graduating seniors who have achieved sustainability goals on and off the Dickinson campus through excellence in scholarship, leadership, and service. This college-wide honors program, named for Fullerton Baird, a prominent naturalist of the 19th century and Dickinson alumnus and professor, was established in 2012.

Applicants that meet the rigorous standards of the honor, as determined by an interdisciplinary selection committee, are appointed to participate in the fall-credit Baird Honors Colloquium. The Spring colloquium is a unique, interdisciplinary course focused on collaborative, advancing student research and professional development, and building skills for a sustainable world.

Want to learn more? Come to the last info session Tuesday September 30th in Althouse 07 at 12:15.

The Dickinson College Biodiesel Shop collects used vegetable oil from the dining hall, War College and local restaurants and converts it into biodiesel that is then sold to the Dickinson Farm where they use it in the tractors and trucks. A co-product of making biodiesel is glycerin, which can be reacted into soap. The biodiesel shop makes liquid hand soap that is put around campus in bathrooms for students to use. We are working on adding news scents to our repertoire, and want your input!

We want your input!

What do you want your biodiesel soap to smell like?

-Zev Greenberg '16

The Dickinson College Biodiesel Shop

The greatest source for sustainability news at Dickinson.

Balog, Baird, Stoddard & More [*]

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Sustainability Spotlight on Polly Terzian ’17

Polly Terzian, a Policy Management and American Studies double major, has taken the Eco-Rep program by storm this year! In her first semester at Dickinson, she is already making an impact through the efforts of her group and their own personal work. In fact, she is the best example of the scope of participation by variation of teams and gender. She is excited to watch the program gain more momentum, and is especially excited this year because she works for the Dickinson College Sustainability Office. As the Program Coordinator for the Eco Reps, she has worked on a number of initiatives across all aspects of student life and feels that reaching the audience is so important because they make up a large portion of the student body.

Long term, Polly hopes that the AER program will develop a respectable and strong reputation like that of the 3-D Student Union and the College Farm. In fact, both have shown the importance of involving faculty and students alike.

Outside of Polly’s sustainability work on campus, she is a member of the Crescendevils acapella group, a cross section of Polly and Emily Pawley. We were extremely excited to be part of such a huge group of people who share our love and interest in provoking change in how this global crisis is perceived. The energy was high as we approached the UN and Emily Pawley. We were extremely excited to be part of such a huge group of people who share our love and interest in provoking change in how this global crisis is perceived. The energy was high as we approached the UN and Emily Pawley.

The Center for Sustainability Education would like to thank Polly for her work for sustainability at Dickinson College.

A Quick Guide to Biodiesel at Dickinson

By Tyierce Hamilton and Justin McCarthy ’15

What is biodiesel?

Biodiesel is a renewable, carbon-neutral, clean burning fuel that can be substituted for petroleum diesel. It can be synthesized from various plant seed oils, waste cooking oils, animal fat, and algae through a process known as transesterification.

Do we have biodiesel at Dickinson?

Yes! In the Facilities Management warehouse there is a section which houses the biodiesel program. One of two rooms is set up as the office, quality testing lab, and workshop. Another room is the manufacturing floor. It is there that we make it, purify, and store our biodiesel.

How is Dickinson’s biodiesel made?

The biodiesel team collects waste vegetable frying oil (WVO) from Dickinson’s Dining Services, the Army War College, and the local community as a whole. After getting the fuel for overall quality, a specific recipe is designed for the 108 gallon batch of WVO. This recipe is tested on a small scale to ensure it will work on the actual batch once the recipe has been designed and we are confident it will successfully react the WVO into great biodiesel, we scale up and begin the reaction. The reaction is reacted with methoxide, a mixture of methanol and potassium hydroxide (KOH), at 135 degrees Fahrenheit. The methoxide is a base that helps break down the glycerin and fatty acid as it is added to the WVO. The glycerin is soluble in water and the fatty acid is soluble in oil. We use a two step reaction; the first reaction uses only 80% of the methoxide and takes several hours. The second reaction uses the remaining 20% of methoxide. After the remaining glycerin is drained and stored, we have to recover residual methanol in the biodiesel. We use this in a distillation process that can take anywhere from 3-5 hours depending on how much methanol is present in the biodiesel.

The biodiesel is removed from the biodiesel kettle and transferred to a holding tank. The biodiesel is stored in the biodiesel shop and is then used for a variety of applications. The biodiesel is also used in the office building as a heating fuel, and as a cleaning agent for the AER biodiesel shop. The biodiesel is used in the biodiesel shop to clean the biodiesel, and to clean the biodiesel lab.

Collaborations and innovations at Dickinson:

Well, the biodiesel program, like the many Living Laboratory programs at Dickinson, has a lot to offer a student. The shop is operated by students, which can provide real hands-on training with a manufacturing process. This can be anything from overseeing production to repairing the system when it breaks. Interns have become plumbers and electricians, and are now a result of working with that shop in the shop.

Less GHGs are great, but what about ME?

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The shop is a place to work on a Strategic Plan, research the effects of glycerin on compost piles, test biodiesel recipes, experiment with various industrial processes to improve the Dickinson biodiesel program, and learn about automating industrial systems.

Why should I care about biodiesel at Dickinson?

There are several reasons to care! For one, the biodiesel produced is used at the Dickinson College Farm in the various trucks and tractors necessary for the farm’s operations. This means that the machines at the Farm is burning much less carbon intensive fuel, which means less greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and less of an impact on the global climate system. Secondly, biodiesel does not produce toxic emissions, and can also be used with current infrastructure.

Contributed by

The Center for Sustainability Education (CSE) welcomes written contributions to our newsletter. Let us know if there is something you want to learn about, or if you have information to share. Submissions welcome from all students, staff, faculty, and alumni.

Harvest Fest (Invites)

-Marah Murphy ’15

Friends and family of Dickinson students, as well as Dickinson alumni, were able to enjoy Harvest Fest this year, since the event fell on Homecoming and Parent’s Weekend. As usual, the annual event was full of good food, music, community, and dancing. Over 100 people gathered outside to stretch their legs and enjoy the fall atmosphere at the Dickinson College Organic Farm.

As soon as my family got out of our car, the mouthwatering smell of pizza wafted up to us! Farm workers were hard at work preparing the food for guests. As we walked around, we realized how crucial that dough is made partially from locally grown flour, while the cheese is all local and vegetable toppings are Farm-grown. My dad and brother couldn’t resist the pizza, so we ended up eating there, which meant we didn’t get to enjoy the apple cider in line for the apple cider, which student volunteers were fresh-pressing. Matt Stieeman came to talk with us – he remembered that we went to the same high school and that my parents love the Farm store.

At 7 pm, the music and dancing started. A live bluegrass band provided the music for the contra and square dancing, while a caller announced the various moves involved in the dance. Three hours of dancing might seem exhausting (and it was), but we all danced off our feet as we met. For the first time, a moment of silence was arranged by the sponsors of the march for those who were unable to join. And Dick Metcalf called the people in the march to join the dancing. This was actually a fantastic way to bind with my new fellow marchers, since many of them showed up, and we got to dance together. At one point, a Farm worker brought a bushel of fresh-cut watermelon to the barn. When there was a pause in the dancing, we would start shoving the juicy fruit into our mouths, which quenched our thirst. By the end of the night, I was sweaty, exhausted, and had a smile plastered across my face. My parents and brother were pleased that they got to experience such a good time at the Farm, while at the same time I thought I would never have asked for a better senior-year Harvest Fest.

Dickinson College Kinetic Strock, Professor of Environmental Studies (kstroch@dickinson.edu)
Don’t miss the Farm Fresh Fare Dinner tonight (September 25) in the Caf. The dinner will feature produce from the Dickinson College Organic Farm. Vegetables from the farm will be in abundance, with prominence in multiple salads and at a sauté action station. The dinner is included in student meal plans and is open to the campus community.

**Don’t miss Saturday’s event!**

**Dickinson ONLY Rideshare**

Need a ride somewhere? Maybe you have extra seats in your car and would like some help with gas? Whether you’re seeking a driver or passengers, post your travel plans and check out where other Dickinsonians are headed. Great for breaks, trips to the store, rides home, and rides to work.

Sign up today! Dickinson provides this service to help students as well as employees save money and time while getting to and from campus. The College has partnered with RidePost, a leader in transportation for colleges and universities, to bring the RidePost Private Network to campus. Any Dickinsonian interested in signing up can join at Dickinson.RidePost.com using his or her Dickinson.edu email address.

“We’re committed to providing sustainable transportation options to our campus,” says Tyce Hererman, Sustainability Projects Coordinator for CSE. “As our bicycling programs continue to grow, ridesharing is the obvious next step. Ridesharing is a win-win: lower carbon footprints and more dynamic travel opportunities, particularly for those without motor vehicles.”

RidePost takes advantage of social networks and Google Maps to help drivers fill their empty seats and riders get to where they need to go. The website enables travelers to book a ride similar to booking a plane or bus ticket. Drivers can set a fee for riders, and because the program accepts credit cards, members avoid the inevitable awkward cash transaction.

RidePost members can link with Facebook and LinkedIn profiles to let you see mutual connections and get additional information about who you will be riding with. A system for ratings and reviews increases security and makes a person’s reputation and credibility matter.

To learn more about RidePost visit RidePost.com or contact Universities@RidePost.com.

**Dickinson College National Coming Out Week Ally Support List 2014**

Each year, October 11th is celebrated as National Coming Out Day. The day was created to advocate for a safer world for members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and asexual (LGBTQQIA) community to live truthfully and openly - and also as a way for allies or supporters of the community to step up and speak out. An ally is a person who confronts heterosexism, heteronormative privilege, sexism, and racism, and who speaks out in support of an LGBTQ person. In observance of this day, the newly created Office of LGBTQ Services and The Dickinsonian have partnered to list the names of supporters of the LGBTQIA and ally community as Dickinson. The Ally Support List is a tradition at several colleges and universities around the country that provides a way of increasing visibility and support for the LGBTQIA community.

Sign the pledge here to support the LGBTQ community.
As you settle into Dickinson this Fall, check out Campus Wall for your needed items. Campus Wall is free, easy to use, and open only to the Dickinson community (students, faculty, staff & alums). Similar to Craigslist (without the creepy scammers), Campus Wall is your place for buying and selling furniture, electronics, books or stuff for your room. Don’t buy new, reuse, and buy local.

Check it out! dickinson.mycampuswall.com
Contact: sustainability@dickinson.edu

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Thank you for your continued support of the Center for Sustainability Education.