Offering Hope to Developing Communities
By Antonia Hernandez, E-coalition Intern

The E-coalition will be writing a focused article on one of our member groups once a month, for the rest of the year, and the organization we are focusing on this month is Engineers Without Borders (EWB). The EWB-UCSB chapter was founded in October 2003 offering anyone interested an opportunity to create change in disadvantage communities. EWB works with communities to improve their quality of life by developing environmentally and economically sustainable engineering projects, while also offering participants an opportunity to become internationally responsible students.

The UCSB chapter of EWB was just recently recognized in Spring of 2008 at the International Conference in Seattle for their “Outstanding Educational Work in Araypallpa, Peru,” and first place in the poster competition that described their Peru project’s work over the last five years. The project was also awarded the 2007 EWB-USA Project of the Year Award.

EWB’s dedication to helping the community of Araypallpa, Peru has been an ongoing journey. The first team was sent in 2004 to assess the community’s water and sanitation needs. Since then a team from EWB has returned back to Peru on a yearly basis to follow up on the project, and further their efforts in providing safer drinking water and adequate educational opportunities. The need for assistance in Peru continues as it seems that EWB will be embarking on a new project in a nearby village of Sankka, which is experiencing similar health problems that Araypallpa was originally experiencing.

Other projects that EWB is involved with include design of a sorghum press and technical training on water pump repairs in Mali, and the improvement of plumbing, wastewater management, and lighting for an AIDS clinic in Kenya.

As the school year starts it is extremely exciting to see the development of EWB’s projects, and the stride they will be making in bettering disadvantaged communities. If you are interested in learning more about the projects EWB is involved in, visit their website at http://www.engr.ucsb.edu/~ewb-ucsb/Welcome/Welcome.html for detailed information about the clubs current projects and meeting times.

♦ To learn more about events check out our google calendar at: http://sustainability.ucsb.edu/events/
♦ To learn about student internship and volunteer opportunities email ecoalition.ucsb@gmail.com
♦ To get email updates on the Office of Sustainability email jill.richardson@vcadmin.ucsb.edu
Residence Hall Energy Competition
By Clayton Carlson

It is with great enthusiasm that I announce that Green Campus will be hosting its Residence Hall-Wide Energy Competition starting early winter quarter. Helping Green Campus in their planning efforts are Irene Schwieger and Mike Hewitt, two new volunteer interns to our program. Hewitt, Schowieger and Clayton Carlson began planning the competition to span winter quarter, with intentions of replicating it in the spring. Among the changes to the program is a bigger budget, allowing publicity to be increased and more spread across campus. Hewitt and Schowieger have discussed doing weekly check-ins with each building’s hall council and hope that this personal attention will keep enthusiasm high during the three-month-long competition.

Involved stakeholders in this competition will include Housing and Residential Service’s Mark Rousseau and Tom Beland. Both Beland and Rousseau have previously provided access to each building’s energy meters as well as funding for our program. Additionally, both have been at the university for a number of years, and have proved to be valuable resources to not only our energy competition, but Green Campus in its entirety.

Keep an eye out for our energy competition’s posters that will be going up at the end of the month, and feel free to contact Clay Carlson with any questions at claytonhcarlson@gmail.com.

Green Campus Program Successes:
- CFL Giveaways: 30, Saving 201 kWh and $28 this month
- Volunteers: 30 this month
- Building Audit: 1 this month
- People Affected via Outreach: 300

We would like to thank our Sponsors:
Throughout this school year, Green Campus Interns will be utilizing two tools from the U.S. E.P.A. and D.O.E.-sponsored Laboratories for the 21st Century (Labs 21) program to identify and recommend energy saving improvements in UCSB labs. The first tool is the Labs21 benchmarking database tool. This tool will allow Green Campus Interns to benchmark UCSB labs against similar facilities within the database and draw conclusions of for potential energy saving improvements. Interns plan to collect facility and energy usage data through the rotating energy audit program, as well as through participation in LEED-EB building audits.

The second Labs 21 tool that Green Campus Interns will be working with is the Lab 21 Laboratory Equipment Efficiency Wiki. This project was developed by Paul Matthew of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL), LabRATS and other national stakeholders. The intent of the Lab Equipment Wiki is to share information about laboratory equipment efficiency among users and encourage manufacturers to provide more data on the energy use characteristics of their products. Green Campus Interns plan to collect energy data from various types of lab equipment used on campus and enter it into the Wiki. Interns will then use this data as a method for identifying potential energy improvements and will be providing recommendations for energy saving equipment replacements. This project commenced in November.

Creative Studies Course
By Jordan Sager

Green Campus interns this quarter signed on to participate in an educational energy audit program with several other student-led environmental organizations as part of a Creative Studies course on sustainability. The program is designed to lead for-credit volunteers through a series methods and metering equipment demonstrations in a variety of building space types, with the primary objective being to identify and implement energy-saving measures. The group will take a dual-pronged approach, focusing both on equipment retrofit opportunities as well as on behavioral practices.

Meet the Green Campus Interns
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Publicity for Phelps–Ellison Energy Competition
By Taylor Orr

In an effort to increase awareness about energy efficiency at UCSB, Green Campus will engage in publicity campaigns with the AS Environmental Affairs Board and the Phelps-Ellison Energy Competition, for which they play a support role. The Phelps-Ellison Energy Competition is an ongoing competition between the neighboring halls of Phelps and Ellison, moderated by those buildings’ managers. Green Campus interns will write press releases for the competition and brainstormed this month about potential events to engage building occupants in the competition.
Trayless Trials
By: Chris Darancette

Ellen Ly sat down at her table at Ortega Dining Commons without one familiar appendage, the tray students use to carry their food from the buffet line to their stomachs. Across the country students are doing without their meal tray to help diminish food waste and associated trucking for removal. A recent survey of 25 colleges found greater than a 25% reduction in food waste per person with trayless dining. That adds up when you serve thousands of customers every day!

According to Ly “the only problem is the plates come out hot and they are hard to carry.” This sentiment was echoed by other students when taking the challenge however all students interviewed for this story found their food waste greatly adjusted.

A senior student found himself taking three trips to the buffet line and ending the meal both satiated and with a stack of empty plates. He found that by having to moderate his eating he found that he wasted less food, and cared more about what he wasted.

Terry Thomas, Systems Analyst, Residential Dining Services, commented on the need for better sustainability efforts on campus.

“During Celebrating Sustainability Week the dining commons staff collected uneaten whole foods left on the tray during one meal. From the food collected the staff then created a display of these items. Dining Services is in the process of setting up a pilot program at De la Guerra Dining Common. The post-consumer waste will be collected and composted which will divert it from the land fill.”

Right now the trayless challenge is a voluntary option for students at UCSB campus dining commons however other schools in California have already made the jump to trayless cafeterias. UC Santa Cruz has just begun implementing the trayless challenge and have already begun finding greater efficiencies according to an interview conducted by UC Santa Cruz Director of Dining and Hospitality Services Scott Berlin.

Trayless cafeterias on average conserve energy and water for washing. It takes 1/3 to 1/2 gallon of heated water to wash every tray each day.

At UC Santa Cruz, going trayless is predicted to save over 300,000 gallons of water per year. Trayless cafeterias also reduce the usage of detergents and drying agents and their outflow into the water table.

‘Celebrate Sustainability Week’ kicked off with a design for sustainability contest, tabling by environmental groups at Dining Commons and a debut of Bag Monster -- a costumed man dressed up in how many bags an average person uses in one year.

Lucas Crowley, a representative for Chico-Bag, took the opportunity to take the Trayless Challenge at Ortega Dining Commons grabbing a slice of pizza and fries. Lucas was invited by the Dining Commons administration to speak on everyday environmental impacts including how much waste we compile every year.

“Its easy to take the challenge, not only is it better for the environment to spread out your meal but getting up and down will help reduce the notorious ‘Freshmen 15’” Lucas said.

The Sustainability Media Team has conducted interviews with General Manager of De la Guerra Dining Commons, Jill Horst, Systems Analyst, Residential Dining Services, Terry Thomas, as well as students and staff at Ortega Dining Commons. Go online to http://sustainability.ucsb.edu/ to view these interviews and more in our archived video section. Or YouTube UCSB Sustainability to see more clips, webisodes and features by the Sustainability Media Team.