

THE ATLANTIC NEWS NETWORK



Association of College Unions International



Region 1 Newsletter - May 2010 Issue

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Submitted by Geoff Combs, UMASS - Boston

Green With Envy

I keep a stack of professional magazines and periodicals on the corner of my desk, College Planning and Building Management, Food Services Management, The Chronicle and of course...the ACUI Bulletin. The stack "stares" at me daily and begs me to explore...and whenever I have an hour to kill I open and read. These publications are always a great source for new ideas and I am always amazed at the unique and innovative programs, events and services that colleges and universities develop. Over the last couple of years you could not open any higher education publication without seeing an article (or six) related to recycling or sustainability. Green is the new black. I do believe that with ever dwindling financial and material resources, locally, nationally and globally, "green" is here

to stay. We are transforming from a culture where green was something we should consider...to something that we always consider. Green has woven its way in to campus programming efforts, purchasing, residence hall living, master planning processes and our daily operations. While you may have heard of energy efficient light-bulbs and can/bottle recycling, I want to share some unique and innovative green ideas that may be new to you. Perhaps you can implement one or two on your campus.

Vermicomposting – Luther College is located in the small northeast Iowa town of Decorah. Luther students have partnered with Facilities and Grounds to implement vermicomposting. What is it? Community members dispose of food waste, shredded newspapers, paper receipts and old class notes in special compost bins where red worms will convert the materials to organic matter that will become rich, black loam soil for

the Luther College grounds.

Campus Center Recycling Station - The Campus Center at Smith College turned their Information Booth in to a "Recycling Station". Students were able to stop by the information desk to exchange old light bulbs for energy saving bulbs, recycle batteries and in return pick up free "green" items (mini desktop trash bins, CFLs and notepads). Smith College feels that the number of visitors entering the Campus Center each day makes it the perfect venue to create awareness and educate students, faculty and staff. The recycling station and other sustainability initiatives are part of the *Campus Center Goes Green* program.

The Farmers Market Luncheon – Recently Western Michigan University hosted a Farmer Market Luncheon. They spent many weeks connecting with local farmers to source chickens, vegetables and fruits. The menu included cheese soup, BBQ chicken, roasted vegetables and baked stuffed apples. The luncheon was an enor-

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Thank you to everyone that contributed to the May 2010 issue of the Region 1 Newsletter!

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR CONTINUED

Green With Envy continued

university tradition.

Reverse Vending Puts Cash in Student Pockets - Fairfield University and Sacred Heart University have installed four new "reverse vending machines" that allow students, faculty and staff to recycle plastics, glass and aluminum beverage containers. They receive 5 cents per bottle. This type of incentive-based recycling also pays students cash which transfers directly to their university one-card. The machines were acquired from Tomra Systems North America and they have helped to reduce bottle waste by 50%, reduce the need to empty trash bins which lowers the cost of curbside recycling.

Old Wood— New Use – Wood is an expensive but highly desirable material. Many campuses are repurposing old wood in creative ways. Johnston State College in the heart of Vermont's Green mountains saved 1,200 linear board feet of wood from the landfill. The wood was used to trim the new Athletic Facility. The Usdan University Center at Wesleyan University recently pulled old wooden tables from university surplus, added new bases, sanded and refinished them to create new coffee and lounge tables. What will you find in university surplus?

EZ-20 – The University of Western Ontario and Penn State recently

replaced their old drinking fountains with EZ-H2o stations. The EZ H2O Bottle Filling Station aims to curb the use of plastic water bottles. The system can be retrofitted to many current water fountains. There are similar products on the market, but their goal is the same: minimizing disposable plastic waste in the environment.

Bike Loan Program - The Bike Loan Program at the University of Oregon refurbishes impounded bikes that are donated by the Department of Public Safety. They are loaned to students for one year. The bikes are outfitted with lights, fenders, a basket, helmet, and a u-lock. Students pay only a \$65 deposit, completely refundable when the bike is returned in good condition. In its pilot year, the program exceeded expectations both in effectiveness and popularity. The BLP refurbished and loaned 89 bikes and there were 399 requests for bikes. The Student Union, alongside Outdoor Programs, helped to construct a small a bike maintenance shop that is outfitted with three full sets of bike tools and seven shop stands that are free for use. The also organized bicycle maintenance classes and bicycle related events and clinics.

Sustainability to Go – Dining at the University of Alabama has introduced a new program that reduces the amount of disposable containers in landfills. The voluntary program is part of the Green Thread™ environmental steward-

ship platform of ARAMARK. It is different from other programs that use biodegradable containers that will go to the landfill. Students sign-up for the program, leave a \$3 deposit and receive a usable plastic hinged container. Whenever they are taking a meal-to-go they receive a container and return it later. They are not asked to wash it, just bring it back....they can then pick up a new one with their next to-go meal. They anticipate eliminating some 600,000 containers from the landfill in one year!

This is just a sampling of the ideas that I have read about over the last year. They stood out as innovative, different and creative. I am happy to provide additional information on any of these ideas, the magazine and the source. Please feel free to contact me. Colleges like Smith, Wesleyan, Johnston State and others are proving that small ideas can have a large impact. Go Green and enjoy your summer.



SITE UNSEEN

Submitted by FM Muñoz, University of Vermont

The Cronk of Higher Education | <http://www.cronknews.com/>



Why it caught our eye? Delightfully reminiscent of *The Onion*, but with a higher education twist, *The Cronk of Higher Education* has us doubled-over with laughter on a regular basis. This blog features timely, comedic interpretations of the latest developments in higher education. Witty and satirical, no one is safe from the incisive critique of students, staff, and faculty – some of whom are long overdue for a reality check. Recent posts have included “University Responds to Cry for More Parking by Destroying Academic Buildings” and “Millennial Sheetcakes Bankrupt Recognition Banquet.” Needless to say, *The Cronk* brings some much-needed levity to an industry that sometimes takes itself a little too seriously.

Want to get involved? Looking to channel your inner Tina Fey or Seth Rogen? Check out the publishing guidelines on the site and don’t forget to follow contributor @IrmaPelt on Twitter for a good laugh.

ED COUNCIL UPDATES

Submitted by Patrick Connelly, Smith College

The International Ed Council Chairs have been hard at work this past year with a number of projects. In March the Board of Trustees approved changes to the structure of the Ed Councils. Since their inception, the Ed Councils have been focused on the four content areas: Administration, Finance and Management, Auxiliary Services, Campus Life and Program Management and Facilities and Operations. Now the Ed Councils will focus their work on the eleven core competencies. Not wanting to lose the educational focus of these competency areas, time the Association has developed 4 new Communities of Practice based around them.

You can join one or all of the Communities of Practice here:

<http://www.acui.org/groups/index.aspx?id=3898&linkidentifier=id&itemid=3898>

The Board has also approved a proposal by the International Ed Councils to develop a pilot summer internship program for the college union and student activities profession similar to the NODA summer internship program. The program will kick off summer 2011. Keep an eye out for information this fall regarding participating in this new program.

We are also in the process of developing a task force to look at a certification program for the Association. This program would look at how as professionals we demonstrate, gauge and enhance a practitioner’s skills within each of the eleven core competencies. Initial feedback from the membership has indicated strong support for such a program. If you are interested in participating in this important project, look for a call for volunteers this summer.

The International Ed Councils are also currently working on an outreach project to faculty within higher ed programs to encourage graduate level research in the college union and student activities fields. A letter will go out to faculty as well as ACUI members on campuses with programs later this summer. We are also looking at ways we can better partner with regional ed council chairs on issues around training, communication and programming. If you have questions about these projects or any of the other work that the Ed Councils are doing, you can contact me at pconnell@smith.edu.

REGION 1 CONFERENCE - FALL 2010—SAVE THE DATE

Save the Date!

ACUI Region 1 Fall Conference

Pack your bags, make your playlist, and program your GPS! ACUI Region 1 is heading out on a Rhode Trip! The Conference Planning Team is working hard to coordinate the 61st regional conference that will take place at Bryant University from November 19th through 21st, 2010.

Registration

The link to register for the conference will be live in June. If you have leftover funds in this year's budget you would like to use for next year's conference registration, consider purchasing an ACUI voucher through www.acui.org before June 30th!

Hotel Information

Conference Delegates will be staying at the Courtyard Providence Lincoln in Lincoln, RI. Reservations can be made by calling 401.333.3400. Be sure to mention the ACUI room block!

Call for Programs

The Call for Programs will be announced soon and we will be accepting session proposals through the end of August. Sessions may be submitted online at <http://legacy.acui.org/legacy/login/conference/call.cfm>. Contact Leadership Experience Coordinator Erin Morrell (emorrell@albertus.edu) for additional information.

More information will be posted on our website, <http://region1.acui.org/Region/01/>, as planning continues through the summer. We look forward to seeing you at Bryant University!

Sincerely,

Laura DaRos
Conference Planning Chair
Laura.DaRos@tufts.edu



SUMMER DRIVE-AROUND TOURS

Submitted by Erica Banz, Smith College



Region 1 Summer “Drive-Around” Union Tours

Wednesday, July 14 - 9am-4pm

Locations: Smith College, Mount Holyoke College, and Springfield College

Welcome to Western Massachusetts! This is an exciting opportunity to tour three unique student unions and student centers in one day. Smith, Mount Holyoke, and Springfield College boast distinct styles that meet the specific needs of their different student populations. We will not only spend time identifying facilities management but also the ways their campus living rooms tailor to student programming. Steal ideas and discuss the highlights and limitations of each building. Registration will be available on the ACUI website: \$65 Members, \$85 Non-members (includes lunch). Look out for more updates and mark your calendars!

For more information contact: Beth Bare, ebare@bridgew.edu, 508-531-1270 or Erica Banz at ebanz@smith.edu.



Smith College Campus Center



Mt. Holyoke Blanchard
Campus Center



Springfield College
Flynn College Union

REGION 1 BLOG: STAY TUNED!

Our regional newsletter will be getting a makeover in the coming months in the form of the Region 1 blog! This new format will give us the opportunity to make the “newsletter” a more interactive and useful tool for our members. Members will be able to search topics, comment on articles and even contribute on a regular basis. It is our hope to start having regular postings on the blog in the late spring. Stay tuned to <http://acuiregion1.wordpress.com/>.



Submission deadline is June 18, 2010!

How will you aspire, collaborate, unite, and innovate at the 91st annual conference in Chicago, Ill.? [Submit](#) an education session proposal.

[Educational sessions](#) come in a variety of shapes, sizes, and purposes. Proposals for round-table discussions on hot topics, short-and long-format educational presentations, and extended learning sessions are all being accepted now. Share what you know with your professional community and let this be your kind of conference!

Session proposals are due June 18, 2010 and must be based in one of more of ACUI's [core competencies](#):

- Communication
- Facilities Management
- Fiscal Management
- Human Resource Development
- Intercultural Proficiency
- Leadership
- Management
- Marketing
- Planning
- Student Learning
- Technology

Visit <http://www.acui.org/chicago> today to learn more about the submission process and to [submit](#) your proposal!