

UR GREEN NEWS

THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER'S BIWEEKLY SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER



UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2

CAMPUS LIFE PEER SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION ROUNDTABLE

TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED INCLUDE: THE GOAL OF UNIVERSAL SUSTAINABILITY LITERACY, PEER EDUCATION, COMMUNITY BASED SOCIAL MARKETING, USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA IN PEER SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMMING, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COLLABORATIVE, MULTI-INSTITUTIONAL MODEL PROGRAM FOR TRAINING CAMPUS AND RESIDENCE LIFE PERSONNEL AND STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY LEADERS, WHICH CAN BE REPLICATED IN ALL 10 REGIONS OF THE STATE

10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
(REGISTRATION STARTS AT 9:15 A.M.)
THE HALL OF FAME ROOM,
FRIENDS HALL
CORNELL UNIVERSITY

NOVEMBER 3

STUDY ABROAD INFORMATION MEETING: LEARN ABOUT THE SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM IN COSTA RICA

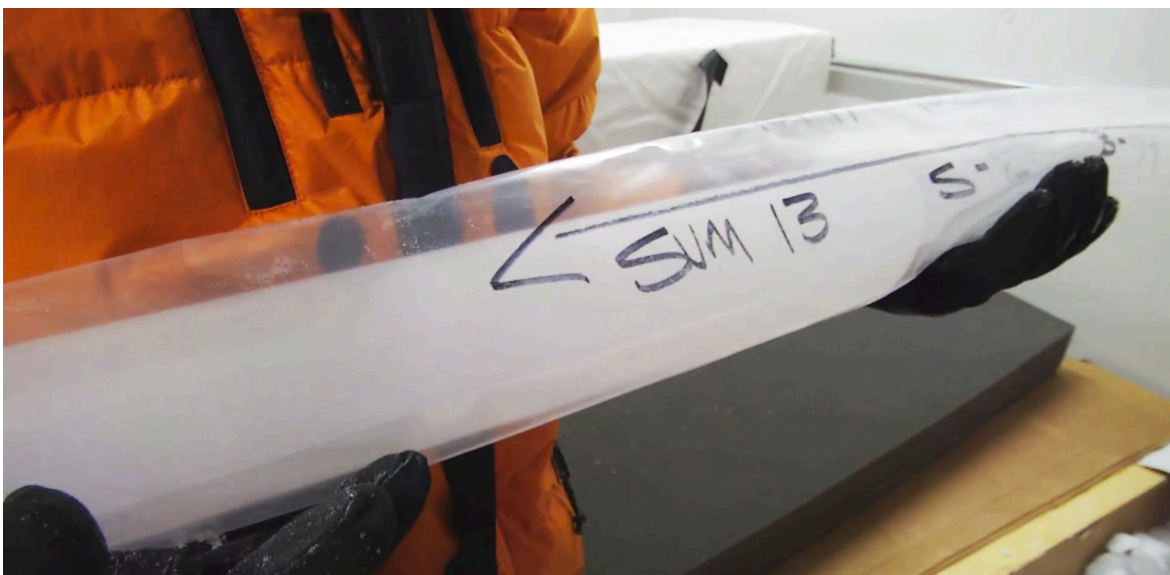
4:00 - 5:00 P.M.
GOWEN ROOM,
WILSON COMMONS

JULIA SKLAR '14 • EDITOR

For information about the newsletter, please contact:
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CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Earth and Environmental Sciences professor wins prestigious Fellowship



COURTESY OF ROCHESTER.EDU

Vasilii Petrenko, assistant professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences and Packard Fellowship winner, holds an ice core from about 1800. Ice cores reveal human-caused atmospheric chemical changes.

Vasilii Petrenko, an assistant professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences, has just received an \$875,000 grant to support his research.

Petrenko, who specializes in paleoclimatology, will be able to use the grant money over the course of five years in order to continue his ice core research, the focus of which is understanding how climate change will affect the Earth going forward.

"[Petrenko] is blazing new trails in ice core research ... resolving questions about how the Earth's natural system will respond to the [climate] changes that we are initiating," Carmala Garziona, chair of the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, said in her letter of

recommendation on behalf of Petrenko.

His grant is being bestowed through the David and Lucile Packard Foundation Fellowship for Science and Engineering — Packard, as in Hewlett-Packard. The fellowship, which is awarded to early-career researchers at universities, stands as Mr. Packard's ode to the success that his company owes to university-based research.

Petrenko will allocate his grant money to research that focuses on the ice cores of Greenland and Antarctica. In an effort to understand the true scale and extent of human-caused changes in the chemical makeup of the Earth's atmosphere he will be measuring centuries-old air

bubbles for their carbon-14 content of carbon monoxide.

Some ice cores date back to 800,000 years old, but many that Petrenko has collected are a bit newer — from about 1800. This allows him to investigate atmospheric carbon monoxide levels going back to the start of the industrial revolution, and offering a distinctly historical context for understanding atmospheric changes.

"It's very important to understand how the climate system works so that we can predict where it's headed and so that we can with confidence predict what are the conditions that cause this system to really spin out of control," Petrenko said in an interview with the University. ♦



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SUSTAINABILITY: MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE PRESENT WITHOUT COMPROMISING THE ABILITY OF FUTURE GENERATIONS TO MEET THEIR OWN NEEDS. —UNITED NATIONS

SUSTAINABILITY SPOTLIGHT

Two years later, Greenspace is reaching wider audiences, gaining more members

In 2011, UR Green News covered the founding of a new group on campus, Greenspace, whose goal was to provide a sustainable living area of on-campus housing. Now, as the group enters its third year on campus, it's time to check in and see how they've progressed.

Green News sat down with one of the group's founders, senior Jessica Ende, and the current president, junior Brittany Flittner, to find out the answer.

JS: What do you each consider Greenspace's biggest accomplishment of the past 2 years?

JE: I think one of Greenspace's greatest accomplishments is reaching out to a wider network of people and making them aware of changes that can make in their everyday lifestyle to be more eco-friendly.

BF: We have also been growing in numbers since the group was founded, participating in more co-sponsorship opportunities, and hosting more events.

JS: Brittany, what kinds of initiatives do you have planned for this year?

BF: This year we are focusing on having an event every month, whether it be our own event or one that we co-sponsor with another group. We also have smaller hall bonding events on the off-weeks

when we don't have general meetings. We have also re-established our Project Committee and have been focusing on ways in which we can make Burton (the dorm we live in) more sustainable. The project we are currently working on is trying to see if it would be beneficial, environmentally and economically, to have bleach-free paper towels in all of the residential bathrooms.

JS: In your time being

of living space on campus?

JE: My cofounders and I wanted to create a place on campus where we could live more sustainably. We all came from backgrounds that emphasized sustainable living and found it difficult to continue many of those practices on a college campus with other like-minded people. We also hoped to serve as a test center for ResLife to trial run more eco-friendly products that they could eventually use throughout campus.

JS: What is the group currently doing to uphold this mission?

BF: Every two weeks, our members have challenges that are optional for them to participate in. These challenges allow our members to try and live more sustainable lifestyles.

We also have shower timers in the bathrooms that allow residents to track how long their showers are. We have towels in the bathrooms as well so that residents can dry their hands with a reusable towel versus a paper one. Members also turn off their lights, and unplug their appliances when not in use. These, of course, are all things that people not living on Greenspace can do. The main purpose of living together is so that we can learn from one another and help one another lead more eco-conscience lifestyles. ♦



COURTESY OF BRITTANY FLITNER

involved, have the goals of the group changed at all over time, if so, how?

BF: Even though this is only the third year of the group, I believe that it has changed in a lot of ways. We have focused more on living sustainably together and how we can improve our living area. During our first year, we focused on large projects around campus, but since then we have stuck more to our mission statement and tried to make smaller changes on our hall, even behavioral changes, such as taking shorter showers.

JS: Jessi, what initially inspired you to found this type