Total Access: Policy, Non-Profit, & Environmental Careers – April 13

Join the Career Center on Tuesday, April 13 at 5 PM in the Student Life Center Board of Trust Room to learn about the policy, non-profit and environmental career sectors and discuss how to pursue opportunities, such as jobs, internships, and volunteer work, within these fields. Panelists include: Jeff Berry of Mentor TennisSee; Sarah Townsend of the Center for Non-Profit Management; Paul McCowan of SSR Architecture and Board Member of the Tennessee Environmental Council; and Reggie Miller of CleanEnergy.org. Please RSVP to Ernest Flora with “Total Access: Policy” in the subject line if you plan to attend.

Spring is all around us! As the weather warms, flowers blossom, and allergies explode, there are numerous green events, sustainability opportunities, and exciting announcements in the near future that we’d like to share with you. Additional information about the stories and events included in this newsletter are available on the SustainVU website. As a reminder, please become a fan of our new SustainVU Facebook page and get up-to-the-minute sustainability news and join our discussions. Take advantage of these fun opportunities, and have a very Green Earth Day!

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Celebrate Earth Day 2010 with festivals, giveaways, trivia, and discounts
2010 Green Business Summit and Expo – April 13-14

Lipscomb University’s Green Business Summit will be held April 13-14 and offers two days of workshops, case studies, information exchange, and peer-to-peer networking among the sustainable business community. Keynote speakers include Catherine Corley, VP Member Program Development for Sam’s Club and Tom Szaky, CEO of Terracycle. Read more…

“Green Talks” Speaker Series: Greer Tidwell – April 14

Join the Career Center’s Environment and Sustainability Career Cluster on Wednesday, April 14 at 4 PM in Commons Room 233 for their Green Talks Speaker Series. Greer Tidwell, Director of Environmental Management for Bridgestone-Firestone, will speak about job opportunities in the field of environmental management. Please RSVP for this event by emailing Courtney Dial.

Simple Steps to Living Green – April 15

Health Plus presents “Simple Steps to Living Green” on Thursday, April 15, from 12 – 1 PM in Room 419, Light Hall. Learn simple steps to make your home and office more environmentally friendly with Tara Biller, owner of a green residential

Celebrate Earth Day with the Nashville community at the 9th Annual Nashville Earth Day Festival on Saturday, April 17 from 11 AM – 7 PM at Centennial Park on West End Avenue. Admission to the festival is free and will feature food and drinks, live music and entertainment, children’s activities, workshops, a scavenger hunt, educational displays, and a Merchant Village where green products can be purchased. Visit Nashville’s Earth Day website for more information.

Vanderbilt is celebrating Earth Day on Thursday, April 22 on Rand Terrace from 11 AM – 2 PM. Correctly answer a trivia question about sustainability or guess how many aluminum cans are in a bale of recycling and win a 100% recycled, reusable shopping bag from VU’s Sustainability and Environmental Management Office (SEMO)! Learn about the Vanderbilt Eco-Dores program from current Eco-Dore students, who will be giving away recycling-branded t-shirts, hats, and koozies courtesy of Coca-Cola. Students Promoting Environmental Awareness and Responsibility (SPEAR) will also be distributing information about the environment. Take advantage of a 10% discount* at the Vanderbilt Bookstore on all environmentally-friendly products purchased on Earth Day, including mugs, cups, water bottles, products in the “Shop Sustainable” section, and more!

For more information on things you can do to celebrate Earth Day, visit EPA’s Earth Day website.

Nashville Mayor announces new environmental office

Mayor Karl Dean recently announced the creation of an Office of Environment and Sustainability, naming Chris Bowles as director.

*Discount cannot be used with any other discount.
USGBC Middle TN Chapter Tour of The Commons – April 21

The USGBC Middle TN Chapter will offer a tour of Vanderbilt University’s LEED Gold certified Commons Center and the lobby of one of the first-year student residence houses on the Commons campus on Wednesday, April 21 from 5:30-6:30 PM. Cost of the tour is $10 for members and $20 for non-members. Participants are invited to stay for dinner in the Commons Center (at their own expense). Read more…

Nashville Clean Water Project at Percy Priest Lake – May 1

Join the Nashville Clean Water Project at Percy Priest Lake on Saturday, May 1 for the largest water cleanup in Nashville’s history! Trash bags, gloves, sunscreen, hand sanitizer and more will be provided to volunteers who will pickup trash from areas surrounding the lake. Read more…

Bowles was previously an environmental lawyer with Bass, Berry and Sims and is a graduate of VU’s Law School. In his new position, Bowles will manage the implementation of the Mayor’s Green Ribbon Committee’s report of recommendations completed last June. The new office will focus on initiatives such as green building projects, improvement and expansion of Nashville’s parks and greenways and recycling program, and public transportation improvements. Read the entire CityPaper article for more information.

Peabody Research Institute launches paperless data tool for field studies

The Peabody Research Institute (PRI) has developed a new data collection tool, “paperless data collection,” for field studies using tablet computers that dramatically reduce data collection time and effort, speed up analysis, and reduce costs and environmental impacts. According to Deanna Meador, PRI research coordinator, “With this method, the cost savings will make research dollars stretch much farther, the environment wins due to the reduction in paper, and the data can be turned over to the analysis team more quickly.” Read the entire MyVU article for more details.

Green myths debunked

According to Fortune Magazine, many progressive institutions, corporations and households are trying to go green. Unfortunately, it can often be difficult to separate accurate environmental information from fiction. Read through Fortune’s list of green myths to learn how misinformation about carbon emissions and offsets, compact fluorescent bulbs, appliances, warming your car up, and more can mislead the public.

Photo by Craig Cutler
For more information on any of these stories, events and more, visit the SustainVU website at www.vanderbilt.edu/sustainvu or contact the Sustainability and Environmental Management Office at sustainvu@vanderbilt.edu or (615) 322-2057.