Industrial Scars: A Talk by J Henry Fair – March 1

Photographer and environmentalist J Henry Fair will share his work exploring the detrimental consequences of consumer society through aerial photography in Stevenson Center Room 4309 on Tuesday, March 1 at 7 PM. Join Fair for a reception and book signing following his presentation in the Center for Health Services. Read more...

Nashville Lawn and Garden Show – March 3-6

Check out the 22nd Annual Nashville Lawn and Garden Show March 3-6 at the Tennessee State Fairgrounds. Walk through gardens with design features such as fountains, waterfalls, rock walls and pergolas, shop exhibit booths, and attend lectures presented

As signs of spring slowly emerge, we hope you’ve been able to get outside and enjoy the more moderate temperatures. Don’t forget to check out Vandy FreeSwap as you begin your spring cleaning. Vandy FreeSwap is the new VU-community website for giving away and getting free, usable, unwanted items instead of disposing of them in landfills. Also, remember to show your Commodore spirit by participating in Recyclemania! We’d like to let you know about several green events and sustainability opportunities coming up this month – more information can always be found on both the SustainVU website and Facebook page. Have an earth-friendly and green March!

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by gardening and landscape design experts including Rosalind Creasy, James G. Robyn, and Anthony Archer-Wills. Read more...

Solar Workshop for Homeowners – March 9

Join LightWave Solar at a free solar workshop for homeowners on Wednesday, March 9 from 12-1 pm at the Williamson County Public Library in Downtown Franklin. The workshop will explain the basics of installing solar, including solar resource and site analysis, utility and tax incentives, and costs and benefits. Please bring your brown bag lunch! RSVP to Grace Safer at info@lightwavesolar.com or call 641-4050. Read more...

Designing Environments for Health Lecture Series and Panel Discussion – March 24, 31

The Nashville Civic Design Center and UT College of Architecture and Design will host Bruce Komiske, an expert in hospital operations, planning, design and construction, on Thursday, March 24 at 6 pm at the University Club. A panel discussion highlighting the application of Komiske’s insights will be held on the following Thursday, March 31, at 5:30 pm at the Nashville Civic Design Center. The series aims to discuss how the creation and organization of space can meaningfully impact the human experience, health, and wellness. Read more...

University introduces new Green Fund

The launch of the Vanderbilt Green Fund (VGF) was announced Tuesday, signifying the university’s investment in sustainable energy. As written in a weekly Vanderbilt Student Government e-mail, the VGF “was created to systematically reduce Vanderbilt’s greenhouse gas emissions by funding projects with both environmental and economic benefits,” allowing students, faculty and administration to collaborate on “long-term conservation efforts.” The Green Fund will provide students the opportunity to submit sustainable energy project proposals. Applications are available on the Vanderbilt Green Fund website. The deadline for project applications is March 16 at 8 pm. Read the full Hustler article.

High school students partner with VU students to promote energy conservation on Commons campus
Sustainability – March 30

Vanderbilt Law Professor Heather Hughes’ article, “Enabling Investment in Environmental Sustainability,” was selected for inclusion in this year’s Environmental Law and Policy Annual Review (ELPAR), a joint publication of the Environmental Law Institute and Vanderbilt University Law School. Come hear remarks and participate in a panel discussion regarding the article on Wednesday, March 30 from 12-1 pm in the Bennett Miller Room of the Vanderbilt University Law School. Read more...

Environmental Leader Class – Thursdays starting March 31

The Environmental Leader Class sponsored by Keep Williamson Beautiful will be held over six consecutive thursday from 6:30-8:30 pm beginning March 31. Topics discussed during classes include recycling, energy resources, hazardous waste, alternative fuels, litter prevention, shopping green, green building, composting, and more. Cost for the class is $35. Call (615) 790-5848 for information and to sign up. Read more...

2011 Green Tie Affair – April 2

The “Commons Cup” is awarded to the Commons House that has accumulated the most points during competitions held throughout the year. The energy conservation component of the competition has been given a twist with the help of Metro Nashville high school students Emily Alsentzer and Catherine Caffey. The two developed a system that provides an incentive for Vanderbilt students to conserve electricity by awarding their efforts with points towards the Commons Cup. Both Alsentzer and Caffey attend the School for Science and Math at Vanderbilt (SSMV), a four-year interdisciplinary science program for high-school students housed within Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Faculty member Jonathan Creamer supervised Alsentzer and Caffey on the project, which will be submitted to the Siemens Foundation’s “We Can Change the World” Challenge in the hopes that this competition or partnership concept for energy conservation can be incorporated into university campuses nationwide. Additionally, Alsentzer and Caffey will be eligible to win a $50,000 college scholarship, a trip to the UN to present their findings, and a $5,000 grant for SSMV. Read the full article published by Vanderbilt News Service.

Incentives from TVA for energy-related retrofits are paying off for local businesses

Businesses in middle Tennessee have saved enough energy to power 1,000 homes for a year due to the completion of lighting fixture retrofits and cooling system overhauls as part of an energy-efficiency rebate program. Vanderbilt University, one of the program’s participants, anticipates energy savings equivalent to $40,000 per year for just one of its projects. Rand Dining Center’s HVAC upgrade is expected to conserve half a million kilowatt hours each year. Lighting retrofits at the Brownlee Currey Jr. Tennis Center will conserve energy while improving lighting quality during tournaments. Read the full article published by The Tennessean. (Photo by Mary Donaldson)

Climate change creates longer ragweed season

Changes in climate patterns over the last few years are leading to extended
series aims to discuss how the creation and organization of space can meaningfully impact the human experience, health, and wellness. Read more...

ragweed pollen seasons, according to plant and allergy experts. The research found that ragweed pollen season lasted as much as 27 days longer in 2009 compared to 1995. As temperatures have increased across the earth, the first frost has been delayed, causing a longer season for ragweed. At higher latitudes in the Western Hemisphere, these changes are even more prominent. Ultimately, the extended season could alter the way ragweed allergies are identified and treated. Read the full article published by Reuters.

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.