

Environmental Studies
Senior Capstone Seminar
Spring 2014

Environmental Communication



“There is more than a verbal
tie between the words
common, community, and
communication.”

— John Dewey

Democracy and Education, 1916

Professor: Giovanna Di Chiro
Spring 2014

Environmental Studies Seniors

- Patrick Ammerman
- Megan Brock
- Natalie Campen
- Margaret Duszyk
- Erin Lowe
- Anne Rosenblatt
- Emma Sipperly
- Shen Wang
- Lucy Whitacre
- Kathryn Wu
- Patricia Zarete

Syllabus & Assignments

- Central Questions: Are We Living in the Anthropocene?
- Assigned Readings
- Reading Response/ Research Journal
- Seminar Facilitation
- Inside/Outside Field Trips
- Capstone Project
- Final Communication
Assignment: Podcast or News Article



“Welcome to the Anthropocene”

Video screened at UN Rio+20 Conference, 2012

<http://vimeo.com/39048998>

Central Questions:

- How do you anticipate communicating the environmental knowledge you have learned to a broader public(s)?
- *Communication* about the environment continues to increase at a faster pace, and cuts through all media – social networking/social media, film, public TV, public radio, cable TV, videos, YouTube, newspapers, public rallies, community & political gatherings, and in the classroom. Which communication strategies and approaches have been most useful in your own education?
- What are the most effective modes of communication to alert, educate, persuade, and mobilize ourselves and others?
- Whose stories and whose voices about environmental issues are most compelling and inspiring? Whose stories and voices are invisible in conventional forms of ENVS communication?

Assigned Readings (selected):

- Robert Cox, *Environmental Communication and the Public Sphere* (2013).
- Andres Edwards, *Thriving Beyond Sustainability: Pathways to a Resilient Society* (2010).
- David Orr, *Earth In Mind: On Education, Environment, and the Human Prospect* and *Hope is an Imperative* (2010).
- Frances Moore Lappé, *Ecomind: Changing the Way We Think to Create the World We Want* (2011).
- Julian Agyeman, *Introducing Just Sustainabilities: Policy, Planning and Practice* (2013).
- Alison Hope Alkon & Julian Agyeman, *Cultivating Food Justice: Race, Class and Sustainability* (2011).



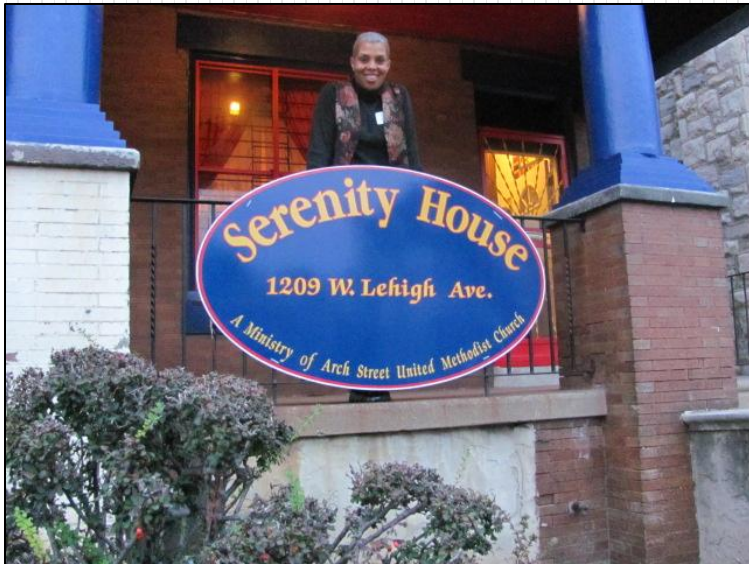
Student-led Seminar Facilitation



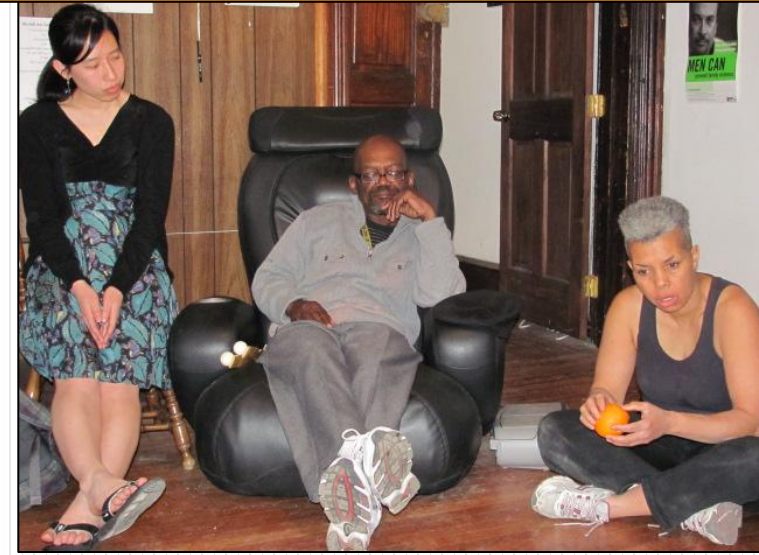


D4D/ Pericles Project Training Workshop:
"Effective Communication & Messaging"

Saturday, April 12, 2014, Swarthmore College, Bond Memorial Hall
10am-4pm, Workshop Leader: Naomi Long



Story Circles on Food Justice @ Serenity House



April 19, 2014, Philadelphia



Community Sustainability Day @ Serenity House



May 10, 2014



Soil tilling, flower pot painting, and planting a butterfly garden....



May 10, 2014

Solar Energy Workshop...



...@ Serenity House



May 10, 2014



Environmental Studies Seniors Present:

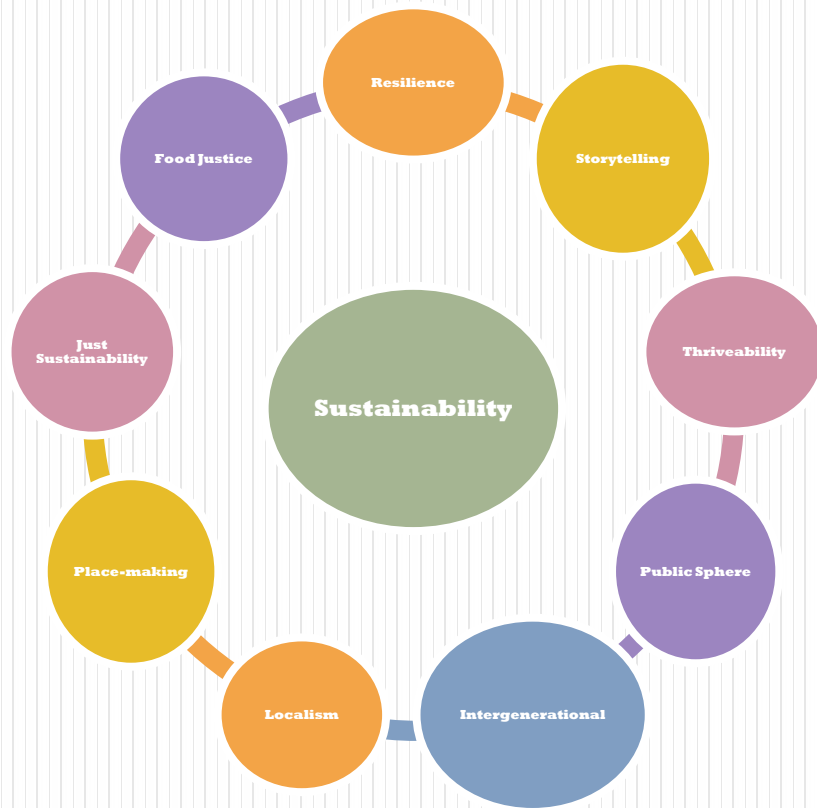
What is Sustainability?

A Collection of Stories on Community and Environment

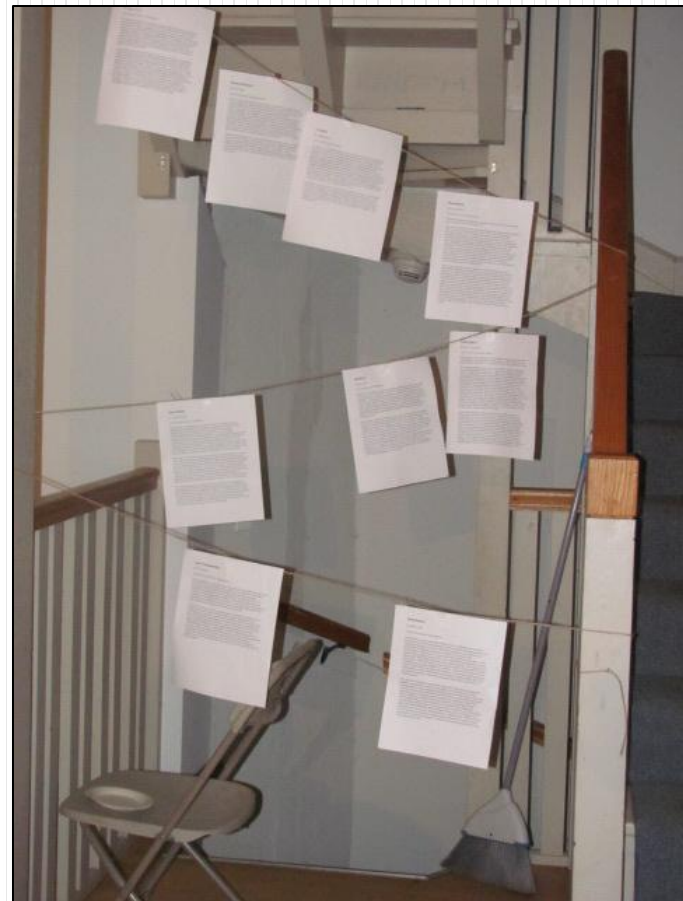
April 30, 2014

6:00-8:00pm

Kitao Gallery



Keywords for Sustainability



11 Sustainable Cities Around the Globe



Sustainable Cities

stone

Capstone Sustainable City Criteria

Communicating Progress

Community Engagement

- Effective communication with community members
- Forum for Feedback
- Local Leadership
- Education

Governance

- City Rankings and Measurements
- Including External Effects
- Policy Initiatives and Updates
- Economic development towards sustainability
- Resilience and Preparation for the Future

Land Use

- Residential Efficiency and Redevelopment
- Balance of Green in Urban Space
- Greening Infrastructure

Local Food and Agriculture

- Closed Loop Resources
- Mitigate Resource Use of Importing
- Worker Safety, Compensation
- Sustainable Methods

Waste Reduction

- Recycling and Compost Programs
- Waste treatment

Transportation

- Access to Public transport
- Updating City Transportation Infrastructure for Alternative Fueling
- Access to biking and walking lanes

Water Responsibility

- Use Reduction
- Reuse
- Updated System
- Wastewater Analysis

Energy and Emissions

- CO₂ Emission Reduction
- Alternative Energy Options
- Overall Use Reduction

Economic Engagement

- Public and private sector cooperation
- Tax incentives for clean energy use and emission reduction



- Vancouver
- Los Angeles
- Singapore
- Philadelphia
- Oslo
- Toronto
- Copenhagen
- Burlington
- Curitiba
- Berlin
- Andorra

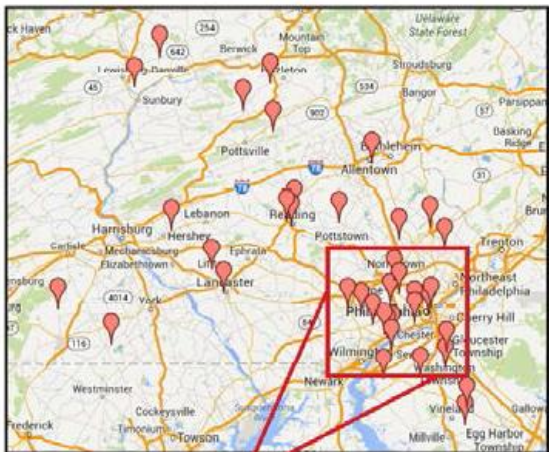
Public & reusable



The search for sustainability efforts in global cities were extended to our local community through a public Facebook page. Contributed stories were added to our target city research.

Sustainable Agriculture & Food Justice

Swarthmore College Dining Goes Local
 "Sustainability is always at the forefront of our mind" - Linda McDougall



Fast Facts

- Dining services has cut down on bottled water from 180 - 280 cases/week to 25
- This winter, the college was closed for 7 days and Sharples didn't once switch to paper plates
- The compost program diverts 75 pounds of food waste per day that would otherwise occupy a landfill
- Dining Services recycles vegetable oil waste, leading to CO₂ savings equivalent to planting 2,024 trees

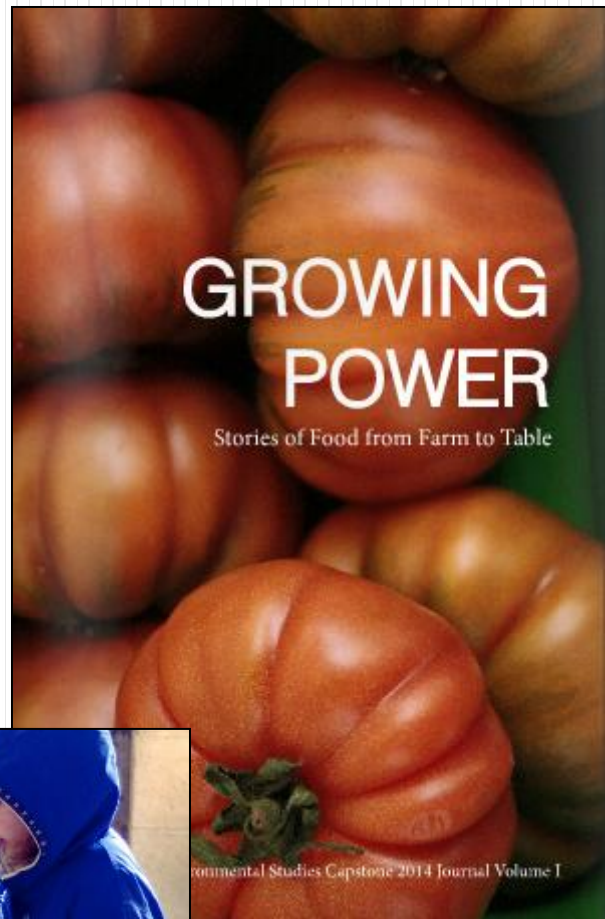
Edible Plants on Swarthmore College Campus



PLANT TYPE

- Fruit
- Nut
- Other

Industrial agriculture has decreased the number of farmers, increased the separation between urban and agricultural areas, and altered consumer's conceptions of food. Until I began this project, I was unaware that we had edible plants on campus and unaware of the number of



GROWING POWER

Stories of Food from Farm to Table

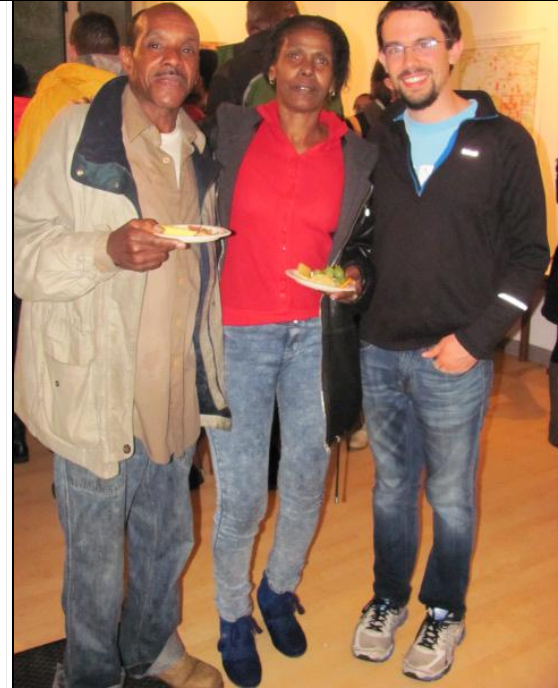
Environmental Studies Capstone 2014 Journal Volume I

Above: Meg
 Studies min
 provided by
 Right: Erin
 Studies and





Sharing Food, Locally Brewed Beer & Diverse Stories for Sustaining Together





Capstone: Commons, Community, Communication (Latin: "to impart," "to share," "to make common")

Students learned that community is not about *sameness* – they discovered and created “community” through unearthing and exploring *diverse* local & global ideas, practices, and stories about sustainability