GLISTEN Erie Cluster News
2011 - 2012

Gannon University

Great Lakes Research:

* GLISTEN student liaison, Noelle Blank, ‘12 has been researching adaptations in the teeth and jaw structure of invasive round gobies. (see photo #2)
* Directed research: An Overview and Assessment of Antibiotic Resistance in the Bacterial Genus Aeromonas from Lake Erie/ Biology with Drs. Greg Andraso and Troy Skwor
* Directed research: Investigation of Antibiotics Levels and Antibiotic Resistance in Water Samples from the Pennsylvania Lake Erie Watershed/ Chemistry with Dr. Matthew Heerboth

Great Lakes Stewardship Through Service-Learning: Recent Course Projects

* GIS mapping of sediment contamination in Presque Isle Bay: Independent Study in Environmental Science/Engineering with Dr. Michelle Homan
* Marketing Plan for an upcoming exhibit on the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Lake Erie at the Erie Maritime Museum: Senior Capstone course in Marketing with Dr. Rick Prokop
* Greening the University’s Lake Erie research vessel, the Environaut, with biodiesel fuel, and forthcoming installation of a small wind turbine and solar panels with Dr. Michelle Homan
* Designing a sediment collection device: Engineering students working with Dr. Karinna Vernaza and the Pennsylvania Sea Grant tested and built a sediment collection device to analyze non-point source pollution in Cascade Creek in the Presque Isle Bay watershed. This project supports one of the research efforts funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. (see photos # 3 & #4)

Discover Presque Isle: GLISTEN student liaison, Megan Schmitt helped to plan activities for a major summer festival in Presque Isle State Park called, Discover Presque Isle, which includes arts, music, recreation, and outdoor activities. Photo galleries from the event can be viewed on goerie.com: http://reprints.goerie.com/mycapture/category.asp?CategoryId=68051

Flagship Niagara Partnership: Gannon University will provide a two-year major sponsorship for the USS Flagship Niagara, which is a tall ship, rebuilt from the Battle of Lake Erie in the War of 1812. Sponsorship will support scholarships and a 3-week summer sailing course for college credit through Lakes Erie, Huron and Superior. It will feature a service-learning research study on plastics pollution in the Great Lakes. See YouTube video from the partnership announcement http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X8FRZeQ8w8o

International Coastal Clean Up: Gannon schedules its annual GIVE Day (Gannon’s Invitation to Volunteer Everywhere) to coincide with the date of the International Coastal Clean Up. Students participate in multiple clean ups throughout the Lake Erie watershed including the beaches in Presque Isle State Park, McDannell Run, Asbury Woods and even the urban core of downtown Erie, located just a few blocks from the bayfront. (see photos #5 and #6)
Great Lakes Research:
* Dr. Steve Mauro and students have been researching pharmaceuticals and other water contaminants in Lake Erie. See it on YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H2YS6TXyh5c&list=UUcwMj156B4AXIjEdCMUKbFg&index=84&feature=plpp_video

* GLISTEN student liaison, Danielle Long, ’11 researched fish waste as fertilizer


Recent Class Projects:
* Historical research and nautical Hallowe’en set design for the Ghosts Afloat fundraiser on the USS Flagship Niagara in partnership with the Erie Maritime Museum. Students helped the Flagship Niagara League to raise over $10,000: History and Interior Design courses with Professors Stephanie Heher, Chris Magoc and Alison Ollinger-Riefstahl http://www.ghostsafloat.org/

* Students in a three-part interdisciplinary course in the Sustainability program (Understanding Disaster, Energy & Ethics, and Introduction to Sustainability) responded to the 2011 major flooding events in PA, NY and VT by constructing rain barrels for campus locations with higher areas of runoff, and also submitted proposals for construction of a campus sewage treatment plant and energy converters for recreation equipment. Faculty included Drs. Mike Campbell, Chris Magoc, and Dyan McBride.

* Exemplary Campus Plan/Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Students in the Sustainability course titled, “Responding to Climate Change“ created a model plan for reducing campus carbon emissions as part of the Presidents’ Climate Commitment with faculty members Dr. Mike Campbell and Brittany Prischak.

Energy Corps: Mercyhurst was awarded one of only 19 new AmeriCorps positions in a national program called EnergyCorps. The Mercyhurst EnergyCorps member works collaboratively with the City of Erie Public Schools, community partner Environment Erie and with Mercyhurst students on a wide variety of projects involving environmental stewardship, energy and education. See blog postings on the EnergyCorps website: http://www.energycorps.org/blog/national/americorps-works-americorps-week-post-1/

Farmers Markets: Produce from the Mercyhurst West Farm is sold both on campus and in the South East Erie Farmers Market demonstrating the bounty of organic farming methods. See video from the campus market on YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zgRWKEUSCvs

Awards: GLISTEN student liaison, Hannah Beck, ’13 was awarded as one of 135 Newman Fellows by Campus Compact to recognize her as a student leader in addressing national and community challenge. http://www.mercyhurst.edu/news/news-releases/article/?article_id=2413
Photos for the Erie Cluster:

Photo #1

Photo #2

Photo #3

Photo #4