

2009 Connecticut State University: International Education Conference

WCSU (Midtown Campus)

October 16, 2009

8:30 – 9:00 a.m. **REGISTRATION** (*Student Center, 1st floor*)

9:00 – 9:20 a.m. **WELCOME** (*Student Center Theater, 1st floor*)

Introductions: Dr. James Schmotter, President, Western Connecticut State University

- Dr. David G. Carter, Chancellor
- Dr. Louise H. Feroe, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

9:20 – 10:15 a.m. **KEYNOTE ADDRESS** (*Student Center Theater, 1st floor*)

Introduction of Keynote Speaker: Dr. Robert Whitemore

- **Keynote Speaker: Mr. Michael Despines**
Climate Resilience Campaign Coordinator, Friends of the Earth

10:15 – 10:30 a.m. **BREAK**

10:30 – 11:35 a.m. **CONCURRENT SESSIONS** (*Warner Hall*)

Session 1A ***Green Thinking – A Conceptual Approach: Is there a Magic Formula for Shaping Sustainable Cities in the 21st Century?*** presented by Dr. Mirela Newman, Associate Professor, Geography and Urban Studies, SCSU
(*Warner 101*)

In the twenty-first century we are very aware of our global urban problems including exponential population growth, spatial expansion of cities, growing automobile ownership and use, traffic congestion, pollution, wasteful use of natural resources, rising social and economic inequities, just to name a few. Can we rethink and reshape our current urban practices? This paper explores the “green thinking” tenets that apply to our cities and forays into the potential "formula ingredients" for achieving greener, sustainable cities.

Session 1B ***Global Warming: Reducing Your Carbon Footprint at Home and Work*** presented by Dr. Charles Button, Associate Professor of Geography, CCSU
(*Warner 102*)

Global warming is recognized as one of the biggest challenges facing society. Ideas will be shared on how you can help reduce your solid waste and carbon footprints at home and work in this lively and interactive workshop. Ideas will be presented that people can implement at home and work to reduce their contributions to global warming that range from no cost, low cost, to higher cost.

Session 1C ***Greening the Field of Study Abroad*** presented by Astrid Jirka, Director, Green Passport Program Director; Dr. Miguel Karian, Director of Earth Education International (Costa Rica); Mrs. Lucie Zacharova, Czech Republic Resident Director, Council on International Educational Exchange
(*Warner 103*)

This session will explore the many ways in which the U.S. undergraduate study abroad experience and the sustainability movement overlap. Background information on the overall

sustainability of study abroad will be given, including both domestic and international perspectives, as well as what campus offices and program providers overseas are doing to both green their operations and educate students about relevant issues.

11:45 – 12:45 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS (Warner Hall)

Session 2A *Conversation and Conservation: Global Academy in Granada, Nicaragua* presented by Dr. S. Alba Skar, Associate Professor of World Languages and Literature, WCSU; Dr. Theodora Pinou, WCSU, Heather Shepard, WCSU; Dinilio Jimenez, WCSU (Warner 101)

With the understanding that global sustainability is only possible through dialogue with local communities, the Global Academy in Granada, Nicaragua integrates language study and local conversations in Spanish with the study of ecology and conservation through a series of partnerships to support a multifaceted intercultural dialogue.

Session 2B *Connecting Student's Work on Climate Change with Connecticut Public Policy* presented by Mr. William Leahy, Chief Operating Officer for the Institute for Sustainable Energy, ECSU (Warner 102)

This workshop will provide a model for creating an application center which links the academic work within a University, in this case concerning energy issues and climate change, with the work of local and state government dealing with these global issues. The model demonstrated how students can apply and share their knowledge in a way that supports the formulation on sound public policy on global warming and climate change.

Session 2C *Ethnocentrism and Cultural Differences, Challenges to International Education* presented by Dr. Dominique Claudet, Département de Sociologie, Université de Caen; Mr. Nicholas Simon, ECSU (Warner 103)

International Education is based on exploring other cultures, other ways of life, and other ways of thinking. These examinations are based on our ability to renounce to our own ethnocentrism to understand other cultural references. This cultural relativism is challenging because it encourage us to analyze our self as our own society.

12:50 – 1:50 p.m. LUNCH (Student Center, Second Floor)

2:00 – 3:05 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS (Warner Hall)

Session 3A *Eco-Villages as Campuses for Sustainability Education* presented by Dr. Daniel Greenberg, Executive Director, Living Routes – Study Abroad in Eco-Villages (Warner 101)

This session will provide an introduction to the growing ecovillage movement worldwide (e.g., Findhorn, Scotland; Auroville, India; Sirius, MA), the possibilities and challenges of using these communities as contexts for education and social change, and the work of Living Routes, which partners with UMass-Amherst to offer study abroad programs based in ecovillages worldwide.

Session 3B *Sustainability Education in East Asian Countries: Chinese and Korean Cases* presented by Margaret Goralski, Adjunct Professor of Management, SCSU; Chulguen (Charlie) Yang, Assistant Professor of Management, SCSU (Warner 102)

With brief descriptions on the unique environmental challenges and the current sustainable practices in China and Korea, we propose a new role of green entrepreneurs as change agents in emerging economies. We further discuss how interdisciplinary sustainability management education could fill the gap between unmet governmental policies and actionable programs.

Session 3C

Funding Opportunities for Study and Research in Germany, presented by Dr. Renate Ludanyi, Director, German Studies Center; Ms. Jane Fu, The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
(Warner 103)

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) is one of the world's largest and most respected intermediary organizations in its field. Scores of students, teachers, researchers and scientists supported by the DAAD have been able to gain valuable experience abroad. For more than 75 years now, the DAAD has been committed to advancing academic relations between Germany and other countries as well as, more generally, to promoting the fields of education, science, culture and research. This will be an overview of the DAAD and funding opportunities for students, faculty, researchers and administrators in the sciences and other areas.

3:15 – 4:30 p.m.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS (*Warner Hall*)

Session 4A

The Life of Dr. Wangari Mathaai: Supporter Of Sustainable Development, Founder Of Kenya's Green Belt Movement, And Contributor To The Earth Charter, presented by Dr. Leah G. Stambler, Professor of Education and Educational Psychology, WCSU
(Warner 101)

Dr. Wangari Mathaai provides the model of a Sustainable Development activist, thinking globally and acting locally. She was the first African woman Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, founder of The Green Belt Movement, fighter for poor women's role in Sustainable Development, and strong voice to promote peace and good living conditions in Africa.

Session 4B

The Theory of Iconic Realism in the Artistic Form as a Means to Bring Cultural Awareness of Environmental Crises presented by Ms. Jeanne I. Lakatos, Adjunct Professor, Writing, Linguistics, Creative Process, WCSU
(Warner 102)

This paper deals with various artistic representations of iconic realism through music, art, literature and film to express needs for cultural adaptations, in this case, the adaptation of environmental stewardship.

Session 4C

Policy Trends and Perspectives Regarding Water Scarcity presented by Dr. Christopher L. Kukk, Associate Professor of Political Science, WCSU; Mr. Kristian Nielsen, WCSU/University of Tartu (Estonia); Kevin Gaughan, WCSU
(Warner 103)

Trends in the political economy of water scarcity will be presented. Topics that will be discussed include international conflict and cooperation over water as well as water privatization. Cases from the European Union, Vietnam, Africa, Central Asia, and the Middle East will be used throughout the panel's presentation.