In support of Campus Sustainability Day, Dr. Anthony Cortese, president of Second Nature, visited the Ithaca area on October 23-25. Second Nature is dedicated to catalyzing a worldwide effort to make healthy, just, and environmentally sustainable action a foundation of all learning and practice in higher education. Cortese is the co-coordinator of the Higher Education Associations’ Sustainability Consortium and is also a co-founder of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE).

As a founding member of University Leaders for a Sustainable Future, Cortese was one of the architects of the Talloires Declaration, a 10-point action plan for campus sustainability adopted by over 325 international institutions, to which Ithaca College became a signatory on February 28, 2006. Cortese is currently working to gain support for a President’s Climate Commitment; he met privately with President Williams and her senior leadership team on October 25 to discuss our progress on meeting the goals laid out in the Talloires Declaration and to potentially set carbon neutrality targets.

Cortese’s visit was co-sponsored by the Office of the Provost and the Office of the Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration at Cornell University. Cortese met with Cornell representatives on October 23rd, and on October 24th, Cortese delivered an event keynote address in Textor Hall to audience members from both campuses titled, “How Ithaca College and Cornell University can help lead society on a healthy, just, secure, and sustainable path.”

AASHE has recognized IC junior Anna Day for the breadth of her leadership in a wide variety of sustainability initiatives at the college. Day was one of only four students nationwide to earn an honorable mention in the AASHE Student Sustainability Achievement Award competition.
IC Students Foster a Sustainable Community

Take Credit for Making a Difference

Looking for independent study opportunities for Spring 2007? Want to tackle a project where the results of your work will change the way Ithaca College and the Center for Natural Sciences operate?

Check out the complete list campus sustainability projects offering between 0.5 – 3 credits each, at http://ic017040.ithaca.edu/~cns/Current%20Projects.html

Just email the CNS faculty member listed with the project description to find out the details of how you can become involved, or contact Marian Brown to discuss other possible campus sustainability independent student projects.

For example, the design template for this newsletter was created as a course project by Borislava Yotova, an OCLD grad student.

That’s So Yesterday’s News!

Students in assistant professor Michael Smith’s U.S. Environmental History course have been working with archivists at The History Center Research Library to research and interpret the environmental history of Tompkins County. Using the collection of the Center for primary source material, this is the third semester that teams of students have investigated aspects of the environmental history of the area. This fall, students have studied the history of the Ithaca Farmer’s Market, the 19th century ice industry in Tompkins County, and the industrial development of Six Mile Creek. The students’ work provides a new framework for understanding the area’s past and their research will become part of The History Center’s collection. According to Kelly Calnon-Falck, director of education at The History Center, “Professor Michael Smith developed the environmental history course that requires students to use local historical resources to study an event or process in the greater Ithaca area. In doing so, it is his hope that students will develop a sense of “ecological citizenship” and an understanding that they are a part of the community they are studying.”

As a requirement of the course, the students will present their findings in a free public presentation, co-sponsored by Sustainable Tompkins, on December 6th at 7:00pm at the History Center, 401 East State Street.

Early mill along a local waterway
This fall, Rick Couture, associate vice president for Facilities, reminded the campus about the College policy regarding thermostat set points enacted earlier this Spring. During the heating season (generally November through April) the temperature range for office thermostats will be fixed at between 69-71°. Accompanying this set-point policy is one on the use of space heaters; see this policy at www.ithaca.edu/physicalplant/ heaters.html. As Couture noted: “These set points are in keeping with the college’s commitment to sustainability and maintain a tradition of environmental and fiscal responsibility that help advance our educational mission… Saving energy and conserving our natural resources is a collective effort that needs the support of all members of our College community. Please join in supporting these measures so that the portion of the College’s financial resources that are consumed by utilities can be minimized; and the savings invested directly into the College’s educational mission.”

Besides, all the really “hot” IC people wear sweaters!

**100% Recycled-content Letterhead Introduced**

Beginning in early Fall, all College letterhead will be printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper. Working closely in partnership with one of the College’s major suppliers, Unisource, and paper manufacturer Fox River Paper Company, Wayne French, supervisor of Printing Services, reports that this new totally recycled-content paper - which will be equal in performance and appearance to the current letterhead stock - will be made available to our campus community at no additional cost.

Replacing the current College seal watermark, our new letterhead paper will feature two watermarks: the Ithaca logo and the chasing arrows “recycling” image with the words 100% Post Consumer underneath. This subtle change, imbedded in the important documents used to correspond with members of our campus community, further strengthens the message of our commitment to campus sustainability.

“**This new totally recycled-content paper— which will be equal in performance and appearance to the current letterhead stock - will be available at no additional cost.**”

**Read All About It!**

Have you noticed the very different look of the “grassy knoll” on the north slope of ground between the Center for Natural Sciences and the Park School?

Recently installed signs in these plots read:

**Alternative Landscaping Demonstration Test Plot**

An academic research project of the Ithaca College Sustainability Group

The low-maintenance plants used in this test plot are native to this area and help increase the biodiversity of birds, animals, and insects, as well as increase soil quality. This landscape offers a healthier ecosystem and its very minimal maintenance and upkeep reduces both fuel costs and greenhouse gas emissions.

**News Briefs**


- For the “Chill Out: Campus Solutions to Global Warming” contest, tell how our campus is helping to solve the global warming crisis - in either short essay or video form - to win cash and prizes. http://www.nwf.org/campusecology/ChillOutcontest.cfm

- The “Convenient Truth: a green video contest” encourages you to take a little time and your trusty video camera to – in a video clip no longer than two minutes - inspire your peers to take action against global warming. http://truths.treehugger.com/

- On Saturday, December 9th from 10:00-noon, visit over two dozen different booths at the “Sustainable Health and Wellness Fair” in the Hill Center Gym. Students from the “Wellness: A Multicultural Perspectives on Health and Healing” and “Human Nutrition” courses will introduce you to herbal products, alternative health care practices, and nutritional information to help you improve your well-being.

**Get ready… Get “Set Points”…Go!**

“**Saving energy and conserving our natural resources is a collective effort that needs the support of all members of our College community.**”

www.ithaca.edu/physicalplant/ heaters.html As Couture noted: “These set points are in keeping with the college’s commitment to sustainability and maintain a tradition of environmental and fiscal responsibility that help advance our educational mission… Saving energy and conserving our natural resources is a collective effort that needs the support of all members of our College community. Please join in supporting these measures so that the portion of the College’s financial resources that are consumed by utilities can be minimized; and the savings invested directly into the College’s educational mission.”

Besides, all the really “hot” IC people wear sweaters!
Members of the IC community are transforming their transportation choices and you can support their efforts. Instead of driving to campus in their single-occupant vehicle (SOV), some faculty, staff and students are choosing to walk, bike, or take public transit for their commute to campus.

Using alternate forms of transportation cuts down on greenhouse gas emissions that negatively affect health and contribute to global warming. Driving less saves lots on the purchase of gas, and we all know that being more physically active is better for your own health.

If you are not able to commit to transforming your own transportation choices, the TRANSform program lets you sponsor the alternative transportation efforts of a campus “catalyst” (what we call the people committing to change their modes of transportation). Each catalyst has committed to 25 days of leaving their cars at home this semester and taking alternative transportation. We suggest that each sponsor pledge $1 per day or a total of $25 over the semester, but every little bit helps and you can sponsor at whatever level feels right for you and your wallet. Every dollar helps TRANSform our world a little more.

The proceeds of the TRANSform program will be used to support IC students traveling with professor David Saiia to Ecuador on service-learning projects to create and manage sustainable micro-enterprises.

Student and faculty catalysts all over campus have accepted the TRANSform Challenge. If you’re interested in sponsoring a “catalyst”, e-mail Anna Day at aday2@ithaca.edu or assistant professor of business management, David Saiia at dsaiia@ithaca.edu.

(continued from page 1)

Michael “Bodhi” Rogers, assistant professor of physics, talked about the creation of the SCALE-UP physics teaching lab in a presentation titled “One Classroom at a Time: Sustainable Renovation at the Classroom Scale.”

Jack Haurin ’08, representing the IC Environmental Society (ICES), and Dan Carrion ’08, representing Students for Sustainability, spoke on “Student-Led Sustainability Initiatives at Ithaca College.”

Marian Brown, special assistant to the provost, rounded out the team and, along with Mark Darling, was invited to participate in a roundtable forum for campus sustainability coordinators. Peter Bardaglio represented Ithaca College at a special meeting of campus leaders to discuss gaining institutional commitment to move their respective campuses toward carbon neutrality.

The registered attendance for this conference - over 700 - far exceeded the conference organizers’ wildest expectations, offering proof that while our globe may be slowly warming, campus sustainability is fast becoming “hot-hot-HOT!”

ICare, so I...

The ICare campaign was first envisioned by officers of Student Government Association as an awareness-raising endeavor and call to action for the entire Ithaca College community around three major focal areas: encouraging personal responsibility; improving campus sustainability and support for resource management programs; and developing campus pride.

During the Fall, a working group of Ithaca College students, faculty and staff began to work on some of the activities that will be encompassed under the ICare program umbrella.

Working group members include representatives from Residence Hall Association and the Office of Residential Life, Students for Sustainability, Sustainability at Ithaca College, Facilities Services, IC Environmental Society, Dining Services, Resource and Environmental Management Program, Marketing Communications, Academic Affairs, and Media Relations. The logo was developed and promotional and educational materials are being produced. On Campus Sustainability Day, Student Body President Zack Ford formally kicked off the ICare campaign on campus.

Watch for the ICare logo on campus… and show you care!

News Briefs

- Astrid Jirka, outreach coordinator in the Office of International Programs, published “Sustainable Travel and Study Abroad” in the Fall 2006 edition of Transitions Abroad – a student guide to studying, volunteering, and working overseas. Read this article at: http://www.transitionsabroad.com/publications/studyabroadmagazine/2006Fall/sustainable_travel_and_study_abroad.shtml

We’re on the Web!

A pdf version of this newsletter can be downloaded from the Sustainability at Ithaca website at www.ithaca.edu/sustainability

This newsletter has been produced on recycled paper.