

SustainVU
Growing Responsibly

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VANDERBILT  UNIVERSITY

Conservation Education Day – March 6

On Wednesday, March 6 from 9am-3pm attend Conservation Education Day at Legislative Plaza, located at 6th and Union in Nashville. Learn more about clean air, water, land and energy. [Read more...](#)

MegaWatt Ventures Annual Clean Energy Business Plan Competition Deadline – March 8

MegaWatt Ventures is an annual clean energy business plan competition that is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy, in conjunction with Southeastern U.S. universities. The competition has an over-riding mission of encouraging the commercialization of innovative energy-related technologies from the lab bench into the marketplace. Students, entrepreneurs and faculty

As spring approaches, temperatures begin to warm up, and you head out for spring break frivolity, remember to adjust your thermostat, power down equipment and electronics, and walk or bike instead of driving around. There are many exciting events happening this month including a lecture by Brent Millikan, Director of the Amazonia Program for the International Rivers organization, and the Tennessee Environmental Council's Green Tie Affair. Keep reading to hear about Vanderbilt's recent attendance at the SEC inaugural symposium and learn more about the VU undergraduate who just might save the environment. Additional information about the stories and events included in this newsletter are available on the [SustainVU website](#) and [Facebook page](#). Have a sustainable start to spring this March!

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**Vanderbilt researchers, students part of inaugural
SEC symposium on renewable energy**

are all invited to participate in this exciting program that brings innovation, entrepreneurship and various local industries together to create new ventures that have the potential to create new jobs and help solve today's global environmental issues. Submit your application [here](#) for a clean-tech solution in this accelerator-based competition by Friday, March 8th for a chance to win \$100,000 from the Department of Energy.

Brent Millikan: Environmental and Sustainability Studies Speaker – March 12

On Tuesday, March 12 from 4-5pm in Calhoun 109, listen to a lecture by Brent Millikan, Director of the Amazonia Program for the International Rivers organization, on water, energy, forest, and climate change issues in Brazil. [Read more...](#)

USGBC Innovation Session – March 14

On Thursday, March 14 from 5:15-6:30pm join the Middle Tennessee USGBC for one of their innovation sessions, which offers intimate, interactive conversation with local thought leaders as they share their sustainability goals for the future. Location is TBD. [Read more...](#)

Backyard Sustainable Gardening Workshop – March 16

On Saturday, March 16 from 9am-4pm attend Hands on Nashville's Backyard Sustainable Gardening Workshop, located at the Hands On

Two Vanderbilt professors were chosen among energy experts from the Southeastern



Conference's 14 universities, industry and government to address renewable energy topics at the inaugural SEC Symposium, "Impact of the Southeast in the World's Renewable Energy Future" in Atlanta Feb. 10-12. Vanderbilt's Aerospace Club represented the university in the SEC showcase.

The idea for the inaugural SEC Symposium originated with Vanderbilt Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos, who is the current vice president of the SEC Executive Committee and SECU liaison. Zeppos said the league symposium "is an outstanding way to showcase the academic accomplishments and research efforts of our SEC institutions." Read the [full article](#) to learn more about Vanderbilt's presence at the symposium.

SPEAR named Vanderbilt's "Greenest Group on Campus"

The winner of the first Vanderbilt Athletics' Basketball Sustainability Competition, [SPEAR](#) (Students Promoting Environmental Awareness and Responsibility),



celebrated their accomplishment of being named the "Greenest Group on Campus" with a VIP event at the Vanderbilt vs. Georgia basketball game on February 27. Read the full article [here](#) to learn what creative actions SPEAR has taken that helped them win this title.

Turn off before you take off for Spring Break!

Remember to power down before you leave for spring



break! This is a great opportunity to reduce Vanderbilt's energy consumption and environmental impact.

- Turn off all lights in your residence hall, including common rooms.
- Defrost and unplug your refrigerator before leaving.
- Turn off and unplug your computer, printer,

Nashville Urban Farm, located at 361 Wimpole Drive. This month's events focus on composting and soil fertility. Lunch will be provided. [Read more...](#)

Nashville Green Drinks – March 20

On Wednesday, March 20 at 6 pm, participate in Nashville Green Drinks, an organic, casual, self-organized meet up of like-minded professionals with a focus on sustainability. Nashville Green Drinks will take place at Village Pub (1308 McGavock Pike).

World Water Day – March 22

World Water Day is held annually on March 22 as a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. Each year, World Water Day highlights a specific aspect of freshwater. In 2013, in reflection of the [International Year of Water Cooperation](#), World Water Day is also dedicated to the theme of cooperation around water. Learn more [here](#).

USGBC Membership Meeting – March 22

On Friday, March 22 from 11:30am-1pm attend the Middle Tennessee USGBC Membership Meeting at Vanderbilt University's Central Library. This month's meeting will look at the future of power and production from alternative sources and feature a number of speakers from Vanderbilt. [Read more..](#)

microwave, lamps, televisions and anything else that is plugged in. Many types of electronic equipment still draw small amounts of electricity (vampire energy) even when turned off.

- Check the thermostat and set to 73 degrees.
- Make sure all faucets are completely turned off and not dripping.

Visit the [ThinkOne website](#) for additional ways you can reduce your energy consumption at Vanderbilt.

VU professor discusses nanotechnology and its application within the fields of medicine and energy

Rizia Bardhan, one of Vanderbilt's newest assistant professors and one of Forbes' "30 Under 30 in Science & Innovation", recently spoke with CNN about her work in nanotechnology and its applications within the fields of medicine and energy.



The plasmonic nanostructures that Bardhan is researching have many applications, including use with solar cells. Using nanotechnology, the life and efficiency of solar cells can be increased. Read the full interview with CNN [here](#).

Meet the VU undergraduate who just might save the environment

Param Jaggi is an environmental science and economics major in the College of Arts and Science and a member of the Vandy Green Fund Working Group. While still in high school, he invented an algae-filled device that fits over a car's tailpipe and turns carbon dioxide into oxygen. He is now working on a thermo-voltaic wind system that can be installed in an exhaust system to capture energy from waste air and heat.



Watch this [VUCast](#) to learn more about Param and read about him being named to *Forbes* magazine's "30 Under 30" [here](#).

Mad as a hatter: global efforts to reduce mercury emissions

Green Tie Affair – March 22

Save the date for the 2013 Tennessee Environmental Council's Green Tie Affair to be held Friday, March 22 at 7:00pm at the University Club of Nashville. Green Tie Affair is one of the Tennessee Environmental Council's most important and fun events of the year, with a mission of supporting all Council programs including the TN Tree Project, Sustainable TN, the Watershed Support Center and more. More information can be found [here](#) as it becomes available.

Alternative Fuel Vehicle Roadshow – March 26

On Tuesday, March 26 from 9am-noon stop by the Ellington Agricultural Center for a statewide vehicle showcase tour and series of presentations on the economics and practicality of implementing alternative fuel transportation solutions. [Read more...](#)

AASHE 2013 Conference – October 6-9

Save the date for the 2013 AASHE Conference, to be held in the "Greenest City in the Southeast", Nashville! Befitting of this year's conference theme, "Resiliency & Adaptation," AASHE 2013 is taking place in a city that is part of the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement, has a comprehensive strategy to ensure consistent access to an affordable, sustainable and nutritious food system, and features a new residential energy efficiency

Last month, representatives of more than 140 countries, [including the U.S.](#), agreed to the terms of a treaty called the Minamata Convention that would ban the use of mercury in switches, certain fluorescent lamps, cosmetics, most batteries and certain medical thermometers and blood pressure devices by 2020. The treaty is scheduled to be [finalized this fall](#) in Minamata, Japan, where industrial waste poisoned an entire village 50 years ago. Read the full article [here](#).



More companies reporting profitability from environmentally friendly practices

A [new report](#) indicates that companies increasingly are discovering value in environmental sustainability, and they are changing their business practices to take advantage of it. In a survey of executives and managers conducted by the Boston Consulting Group and *MIT Sloan Management Review* magazine, 37% of executives and managers said environmentally conscious actions have added to their company's profit. That's up significantly from the 23% who reported profits from environmental sustainability practices in last year's survey. Read the full article [here](#).



Texas Transportation Institute report details Nashville as congested city

A recent report published by the Texas Transportation Institute, located at Texas A&M University, outlines levels and impacts of congestion around the United States. The report pointed out that traffic congestion in and around Nashville is greater than in many other American cities. Congestion not only costs drivers time, but it also contributes to increased fuel consumption and air pollution. Take a look at the [Texas Transportation Institute report](#) and then read the recently-announced [IBM "Smarter Cities" review](#) of Middle Tennessee transportation. To improve the congestion in Nashville, consider taking an MTA bus or the Music City Star, or carpool or vanpool to work. For more info on Vandy's alternative transportation options, click [here](#).



program that provides free in-home energy evaluations and other financial incentives to Nashville homeowners. Click [here](#) for up-to-date conference information.



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