

Green Future for Kettering University

By Kristie Boskey

The Green Engineering Organization (GEO), a new club on campus, is already hard at work making their mark!

Students were spotted during 5th and 6th weeks planting flowers on the corner of Chevrolet and Third Ave. In this area, the current vegetation is unable to survive close to the road due to the interference of the tunnel under Third Avenue. To replace the apple trees that are there now, GEO has been working with Cheryl Baryo, Kettering Custodial and Grounds Manager, to plant flowers and other plants that do not have large root systems. Cheryl jumped at the opportunity to better the campus when GEO approached her looking for similar activities. It just happened that Kettering had recently received word of a new program in Flint called, "Cultivating the Community" where all the streets in the city will be lined with the same flowers. Watch in the spring for GEO to finish planting flowers and wild grass to go with the daffodils they planted this fall.

Also during 6th week, GEO sponsored Gabe Wing from Herman Miller to speak on Design for Sustainability. Gabe had a lot of innovative ideas on developing environmentally conscious systems, while also working to improve the bottom line. He proved that a lot of green (meaning environmental-friendly) ideas were actually more cost effective than other options. Learning from nature may prove to be the best teacher in the future. Next spring, Keith Grass, CEO of the David J. Joseph Company has been invited to come and speak about the scrap industry, which he lovingly refers to as, "The Dark Side".

The Green Engineering Organization is also looking at developing and supporting a new paper-recycling program on campus. New recycling cans should be set up by next spring in most computer labs, so start looking for them to pop up. Please also be aware that these cans are for paper products only, and students involved in the organization will empty them. Additional recycling programs for students who live in the Flint area interested in recycling other products is on the agenda to be address in the spring term.

Besides their work on campus, the new club has big plans for the future. GEO will be working with the Children's Museum to construct a new learning garden on the corner of Chevrolet and Third Avenue. The club will be designing a rainwater run-off system to support the site, among other ventures. Alternative energy is being investigated, and the group has plans to meet with the designers to develop innovative ways to get kids involved and understanding these different forms of energy.

Earth Day is also on the agenda come spring, and GEO has been working with UofM-Flint and Mott Community College to develop an interesting and exciting week to celebrate. Al Gore is on the schedule to speak, and this will tentatively be held at UofM-Flint campus. Be sure to keep an eye out for this event!

If any of these plans or projects interests you, the Green Engineering Organization meets every Tuesday in the Heritage Room (4th Floor CC) during lunch. If you are unable to attend during this time, you can still participate in other projects! Join the Green Engineering blackboard group to receive club email updates.

If you're interested in learning more while getting your hands dirty with GEO, a new class, IME-540 will be offered for the first time in the spring. This class on Environmentally Consciousness in Design and Manufacturing is team taught by Terri

Lynch-Caris (IE), Ben Redekop (LS), Jackie El-Sayed (ME), Craig Hoff (ME), Jennifer Aurandt (Chem), and Andy Borchers (Busn). It also includes field trips to nearby landfills, industry case studies and a free t-shirt!