

## 2008 Campus Sustainability Awards

### **Larry Brand**

### **Joe Bogetich**

#### **Honorable Mention for Outstanding Alumni**

Larry Brand and Joe Bogetich own a company that has done work at the University for many years. Both of them are graduates of CU. Over the years, the company has submitted suggestions that have saved energy on this campus in the operation of many of the heating, ventilating and air-conditioning systems. Because of the variety and subtlety of the suggested improvements and changes, it is difficult to assign a value to the savings. However, it is likely that they have achieved simple paybacks of from 6 months to 5 years.

### **Sarah Haynes**

#### **Honorable Mention for Individual Achievement**

Sarah, currently a senior in ENV5 due to graduate in December of 2008, has touched more people that can possibly be counted. She pours her heart into Environmental Center programs, particularly Bioneers, to encourage as many people as possible to attend. She also was integral in the success of the two environmental justice roundtables this past fall. Sarah has a gift of making connections between people. She welcomes any and every even slightly interested individual with enthusiasm and warmth. Sarah genuinely connects people to their interests. Though she is employed as the Promotions and Volunteer Coordinator, she goes well above and beyond the call of duty for that position, and has set a new standard.

### **Bursar's Office, Payroll and Benefit Services, Facilities Management, Housing, Admissions, Registrar's Office, Wardenburg**

#### **Honorable Mentions for Paper Waste Reduction**

Departments on campus are transitioning to paperless operations. While this is an industry trend, going paperless requires an overhaul of IT operations and a retraining of staff and customers. The effort results in significant environmental and fiscal savings and supports Colorado's Greening of the Government initiative which calls on state agencies like CU to cut paper consumption by 20 percent. There are seven departments which deserve recognition:

- Bursar's Office for the new CU Bill and Pay paperless system
- Payroll and Benefit Services for paperless pay notices
- Facilities Management and Housing for the FAMIS system
- Admissions for online applications and workflow using the ChoseCU portal
- Registrar's office for online forms in the CUConnect portal
- Wardenburg for an electronic medical records system

### **Jeff Darling**

#### **Individual Achievement, Green Purchasing**

Jeff has been actively involved in green purchasing efforts for at least the past 3 years. He was a member of the campus Environmentally Responsible Purchasing taskforce and has been invaluable in helping students and staff navigate through the State procurement system. Jeff fought hard to make sure green options were not lost despite changes to State purchasing contracts and procurement rules. Jeff then took matters a step further by working specifically on

procurement guidelines that included and prioritized environmentally responsible materials and services. Jeff has been rewarded with a new job title of Sustainable Purchasing Coordinator. Before this new role was formalized, Jeff would somehow find time to advance these efforts and offer his valuable time to assist staff and students in their desire to see the campus make more sustainable purchasing decisions.

Jeff's contributions have the potential to reshape how the University system procures everything from paper towels to fleet vehicles. Jeff recognized the campus demand, found comparably priced alternatives, and is now moving to formalize many of these options in the State procurement system. Jeff is also working to change how the University records its purchasing activity. This effort alone will dramatically improve the data we have on how much of a particular product we consume and will allow for accurate benchmarks and hence further improvements. Jeff, we thank you for your efforts.

**John Zhai**  
**Green Faculty**

Dr. John Zhai is an assistant professor in the Department of Civil, Environmental and Architectural Engineering (CEAE). He has a unique background in both mechanical and architectural engineering. He received his first Ph.D. degree in Fluid Mechanics from Tsinghua University, China and his second Ph.D. in Building Technology from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Dr. Zhai's teaching and research interests focus on sustainability in buildings, energy and the environment. In the last five years at CU, Dr. Zhai developed and delivered a series of "green" core courses that received overwhelming interest from students in engineering, sciences, management, architecture. Courses he has developed include: Sustainable Building Design, Building Energy Systems, Building Energy Laboratory, Computer Analysis of Built and Natural Environment. These courses present the fundamentals and principles of sustainable development and introduce practical approaches to reaching sustainability goals. Students in these courses have studied the green features in and monitored the energy performance of CU campus buildings. They also designed several high quality green buildings for local communities such as an art learning center for the City of Boulder, a Sustainable Youth Zone for Commerce City, and a nature center in Denver. Outside the classroom, Dr. Zhai is active in helping local communities reach higher sustainability goals via various outreach activities, such as developing clean wood-fired kilns for the pottery lab of Boulder and design of geothermal heating and cooling systems for the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

Dr. Zhai has been actively promoting research in sustainability since he joined CU in 2003 and published over 60 peer-reviewed technical articles in reputed journals and conferences. He received MIT's Martin Family Society of Fellows award for Sustainability in 2000 and the CU-CEAE Young Investigator Award in 2007 for his exceptional achievement in sustainability study. At CU, Dr. Zhai has been supervising 4 PhD students, 14 MS students and several UROP students, who have done research in sustainable building energy and environment. These research projects largely stimulate the interest of students in pursuing long-term careers in sustainability. Students of Dr. Zhai received numerous honors and awards for their excellent academic performance. His students have graduated summa cum laude and received a number of scholarships and awards.

## **Brian Zublin**

### **Individual Achievement, Recycling**

Brian works in the UMC Grill. He takes every opportunity to pull recycling from the waste stream and the dining tables. Students notice and remark on his efforts. His simple actions must make customers take notice and recognize their wasteful behavior. Brian also saves lost water bottles and coffee mugs. No one has ever asked Brian to do this, it is his natural habit and reaction to reduce waste.

## **Ethan Van Duzer**

### **Outstanding Alumni**

Ethan Van Duzer, a 2006 business graduate of the University of Colorado at Boulder, received the National Resources Defense Council award in the international film competition "Film Your Issue 2007." The competition is limited to young adults, aged 16 to 25, who were required to create a one-minute film about controversial cultural and political issues.

A resident of Boulder, Van Duzer is a passionate cyclist who has never had a driver's license and does not own a car. Called "Give A Hoot," Van Duzer's film explains how his love of cycling evolved into a "conscious decision to consume more moderately, while at the same time act environmentally responsible."

"Film Your Issue 2007" is an Internet-based global competition, sponsored by some of the leading global-media companies and cause organizations in the world.

Ethan is currently living in New York.

## **Computers for Youth Project**

### **Social Justice**

The Computers for Youth Project enabled 28 students from Bruce Randolph Middle School in North Denver with "hands-on" computer training. By the end of the daylong event, these students, working with 15 CU student mentors, refurbished Dell Pentium 4 computers with Internet access and basic computing programs.

A number of students and staff worked together to accomplish two important objectives. The first was to call attention to the growing amount of waste from discarded computers. Thirty computer systems were diverted from the University's waste stream saving over 300 pounds of lead and other toxins. The second objective of this event addressed the digital divide faced by low-income communities. With such a great amount of computer equipment being discarded by a technologically advanced university like CU, it made sense that some of this equipment be recycled toward productive ends.

The following people all played important roles in this project: Jack DeBell, Maria Linderoth, Eric Heltné, Teresa Hernandez, Laneice Littleton and Xochitl Garcia.

**Jim White**  
**Green Faculty**

Jim has a long history of dedication to the environment through education, research, outreach, and bridge-building. Jim was the first Director of the Environmental Studies Program at the University of Colorado at Boulder, as well as its first faculty member. ENVS began with a high enrollment and the lowest number of faculty per student major of any Department or Program at CU. Jim was instrumental in recruiting new participating faculty and promoting new course offerings to bring life to the ENVS vision of an educational program balancing science, policy and values. With so few faculty to advise honors thesis students, he established weekly group meetings so that he could manage all of them. Jim was also integral in the establishment of the MS and PhD programs in Environmental Studies. Jim has been inspiring students in the classroom for many years, as the following testimonial demonstrates:

"Jim White was the first ENVS faculty member that I encountered as a newly declared ENVS major. His teaching style struck me as practical. He encourages responsibility and awareness in his students without isolating those that may not identify as environmentalists. Though he is a prestigious scientist, he ensures that he is completely accessible. It is obvious that Jim's passion lies with students first. His door is always open and his friendliness has always made me feel comfortable in approaching him. Jim demonstrates a rare figure on this campus that will relate to his students personally despite his incredible and prestigious standing in the scientific community. CU is lucky to claim a professor that teaches his students about global sustainability effectively and with utmost care."

-Amy Harris, student and UCSU Sustainability Director

As a scientist, Jim's work is at the heart of climate change research; his studies inform the world on the past history of climate change through ice core records, as well as present levels of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and future projections. There are few scientists who can address the environmental challenges we face with more integrity and authority than Jim. He is committed to communicating about climate change to the general public.

Although Jim has moved on from the Directorship of ENVS, he continues to inspire students, spread the word about climate change, and work within the University to promote sustainable responses to environmental challenges. It is difficult to spend any time working on environmental issues within CU without hearing Jim's name mentioned as a leader and innovator in cultivating a sustainability paradigm within the university.