Situating Sustainability in the Curriculum: A Multi-Disciplinary Perspective

A Roundtable Discussion

Rebecca Gould, Hector Vila, Jack Byrne, Steve Trombulak, Dan Brayton, Sandra Carletti

Thursday, January 20 • 1 – 2:30 pm • Lunch provided at 12:30
Hillcrest 103 (Orchard Room)

What are the “big ideas” surrounding the concept of sustainability? What is the place of sustainability in the liberal arts curriculum? In this roundtable discussion, faculty who have designed or revised a course to integrate sustainability topics into their teaching will share their firsthand experiences. Participants will also present an overview of a two-year collaborative project between Middlebury College and Furman University which provided professional development workshops for faculty, especially those not teaching environmentally related topics. If you have been considering how sustainability relates to your discipline, or your students have asked, this roundtable will offer you a useful set of perspectives from across the curriculum.

Co-sponsored by the Sustainability Integration Office

Meditation for Academic Excellence and Beyond

An Interactive Talk with Arthur Zajonc

Thursday, February 10 • 4:30 – 6 pm
McCardell Bicentennial Hall 216

Arthur Zajonc is professor of physics at Amherst College, author of the book Catching the Light, co-author of The Quantum Challenge, and co-editor of Goethe's Way of Science. He serves as scientific coordinator for the Mind and Life dialogue with H.H. the Dalai Lama and directs the Center for Contemplative Mind in Society which supports appropriate inclusion of contemplative practice in higher education.

Co-sponsored by the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Research and the Faculty-Staff Meditation Group; funded by an Alfred E. Sloan Work/Life Balance mini-grant through the Office of Faculty Development

Contemplative Pedagogy Seminar

A Workshop for Faculty and Staff led by Arthur Zajonc

Friday, February 11 • 1 – 4 pm • Lunch provided at 12:30
Axinn 229

Research shows that secular contemplative practices such as silent focus on an image, concept or the breath can help the brain process information, sustain inquiry into contradictions and promote well-being. In this seminar, Arthur Zajonc will present research on the effects of mindfulness techniques, describe how faculty across the disciplines have incorporated such techniques into their classes, and lead participants in contemplative practice.

Co-sponsored by the Faculty-Staff Meditation Group and funded by an Alfred E. Sloan Work/Life Balance mini-grant through the Office of Faculty Development