

Interns:

Brian Tomkins
Alyssa Lopez
Kushal Basnet
Ryan Mitchell
Ayesha Riaz
Raymond Truong
Adali Ramirez
Perla Jiménez
Aracely Lara
Emma Lockmiller
Mandy Kaewken
Jose Bahena
Diana Berntek
Alec Piironen
Wasif Ahmad
Stephen Tinney
Emmanuel Dominguez
Alyssa Straits
Huilliams Kamlem
Matthew Briciu
Andrew Pable

Intern Leaders:

Adali Ramirez
Rhea Rashad

Cover Photo Photographer:

Nina Pellizzari

Office of Sustainability:

Cynthia Klein-Banai
Joe Iosbaker
Kate Yoshida
Shelby Egan

Partners:

Capitol Programs
Mike Molnar

Facilities Management
Vy Milunas

UIC Dining Services
Heather Payne

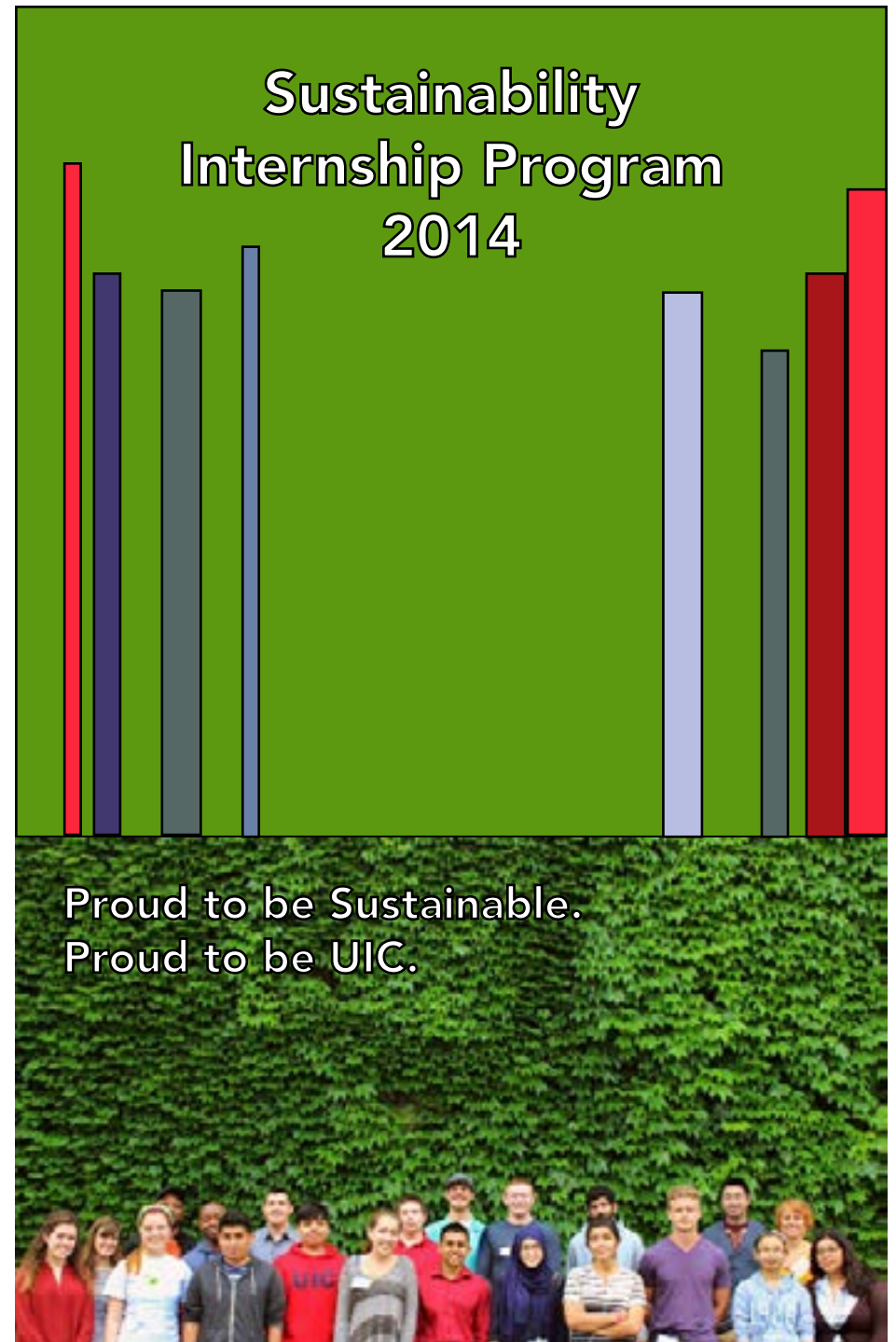
Campus Housing
Tamnekia Grant

UIHSS Green Team
Michelle Nowak

Civil Engineering
Professor Ben O'Connor

Utilities Management
Bob Deja
Kimberly Tipton

The Energy Initiative
Elizabeth Kocs



Alec R. Piironen
Earth and Environmental Sciences
2015
Recycling Intern - Labware

Office of Sustainability
Joe Iosbaker

In 2009, UIC approved a Climate Action Plan which presented strategic milestones in order to accomplish climate neutrality. Out of the many goals the university strives to complete, the Office of Sustainability sought out the potential benefits in recycling unwanted scientific glassware from all laboratories on campus in order to reduce waste streams. Expansion of the already growing project was executed through organizational implementations along with networking, data collection/analysis, and future projections.

Wasif Ahmad
Nursing
2016
Recycling Intern – Analysis

Office of Sustainability
Joe Iosbaker

My project involved analyzing recycling and trash data. Using the waste and recycling data, I analyzed trends in different areas of the provided data. The areas I ultimately decided to research were the building trends in the amount of non-recyclable waste generated per month over the past three years, the three year recycling rates of 12 building units, and the impacts of the food scrap programs on the waste and recycling efficiency at the two Student Centers.

Rhea Rashad
Architecture
2016
Recycling Intern Leader

Office of Sustainability
Joe Iosbaker

As the Student Recycling Assistant, I have many responsibilities all of which contribute to the Office of Sustainability's goal to improve campus-wide recycling.



Aracely A. Lara
Mechanical Engineering
2015
Food Recovery

UIC Dining Services
Heather Payne

The main sustainability issue encountered with my assigned project is the increase of food waste throughout all the campus Dining Halls. Since UIC Dining Halls provide “All-you-care-to-eat” Buffet style format, students have unlimited access to massive quantities of food. This inevitably leads to plate waste – students over serving their plates and then not eating everything. Other contributing factors to such generation of food waste on campus include: poor food stock management, errors in food preparation, inaccurate order forecasting, excess production, spoilage, and climate and environmental factors leading to unsafe food. The consequences include: reduced biodiversity, high cost of food waste, increased carbon footprint, and on a much larger scale – food scarcity in developing countries.

Raymond Truong
Chemical Engineering
2017
Energy Intern

Office of Sustainability
Cynthia Klein-Banai

The Campus Carbon Calculator is used to help organize all the data used to calculate UIC's greenhouse gas emissions. We have data such as utility bills, transportation surveys, building space, etc. In the end, the calculator is able to use this data to show us how much of each greenhouse gas we are emitting, and it is also able to predict how much we will emit in the future if we continue on the same path or make hypothetical changes.

Kushal Basnet
Bio-Engineering
2017
Capitol Programs Intern

Capitol Programs
Mike Molnar

The Office of Capital Programs deals with all of the construction and renovations that takes place at UIC. We have a staff of licensed architects and engineers, who try to bring UIC beyond standards and improve the lives of the students.

Stephen Tinney
Social Media Intern

Office of Sustainability
Shelby Egan

Continue outreach with the UIC community through the: Updating of Twitter/Facebook accounts, Posting articles to the Office of Sustainability blog, Adding events to the web calendar, Supporting the office's outreach and community engagement, Produce marketing materials such as graphic design graphics, flyers, and posters.

Mandy Rattiyakorn Kaewken
Earth and Environmental Sciences
2015
Green Laundry Intern

Campus Housing
Tamneka Grant

In compliance with UIC Climate Action Plan, the university has been working hard to make sustainability a priority on campus. With the goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050, UIC has employed various efforts to achieve it. In order to encourage sustainable choices, Campus Housing now offers its residents the choice of renting a drying rack to reduce electricity consumption. Made possible by UIC Green Fee fund, the drying rack rental program helps UIC become a greener campus by reducing greenhouse gas emissions while lowering electricity costs as well.

Ryan Mitchell
Mechanical Engineering
2015
Capitol Programs Intern

Capitol Programs
Mike Molnar

Assist any of the project managers with various projects while at the same time creating excel graphs to effectively measure the level of performance of the OCP from its completed projects.

Jose Bahena
Electrical Engineering
2014
Housing Move Out Intern

Campus Housing
Tamneka Grant

My project involves being sustainable in campus housing residence areas. During the summer, students may leave campus housing for vacation and are responsible for their belongings. Sometimes students purchase certain items for their own comfort in campus housing and are not willing to bring them to their homes. These items may end up as trash and a waste of money. My job is to try and help reduce this.

Emma Lockmiller
Communication
2015
Green Event Intern

Office of Sustainability
Shelby Egan

Here at UIC, there are numerous types of events that take place throughout each academic year. These events range in size, from commencement at the UIC Forum and Pavilion, to smaller meetings and parties within departments. Many event hosts and participants are unaware of the increased impact events can have on the environment, such as increased waste streams and resource consumption. Hence, bringing us to the necessity of Green Event Guides for UIC. In 2013, the Chancellor's Committee on Sustainability and Energy's (CCSE) Events and Activities subcommittee recommended the creation of Green Event Guides for campus users. The Green Event Guides were created to help educate, assist and motivate people to make UIC events more environmentally friendly by providing sustainable choices for their programming and activities. My internship has been dedicated to creating these Green Event Guides for UIC Departments, the Forum and Pavilion, UIC Student Centers, UIC Student Organizations, and UIC Catering. The Guides are organized into a variety of categories that offer detailed suggestions for the planning and management of an event. Each suggestion is worth a calculated point amount based on the complexity of the suggestion. The more credits accomplished, the higher level of points that will be earned. Based off of the points earned, the event will be granted Gold, Silver, or Bronze Green Event Status by the Office of Sustainability. These Green Event Guides will help UIC become a more sustainable institution through sustainable event planning and providing environmental education to campus users.

Perla Jiménez
Mechanical Engineering
2017
Facilities Management Intern

Facilities
Vy Milunas

The purpose of my work within FM is to assist Project Managers in the coordination of updates and renovations to UIC buildings and to learn all I can about mechanical engineering in the process.



Alyssa Straits
Bioengineering, Sophomore
Hülliams Kamlem
Public Health, Senior
Tree Campus Interns

Office of Sustainability
Shelby Egan

Most people do not think about the benefits of trees and their contributions to the embellishment of UIC's campus as a whole. Our internship has been dedicated to keeping an up-to-date inventory of the 5,000 trees on and around campus. Managing the campus' tree inventory not only provides valuable data that is useful in determining the health, economic, and social benefits of trees and urban forestry, it also offers learning experiences for the UIC community. Keeping a current inventory of UIC's trees upholds the university's status as an environmentally friendly institution. As Tree Campus interns, we have provided primary support for managing UIC's tree inventory through measurement, location identification, and species specification. We have ultimately identified the need for a holistic approach for campus health and wellness, with trees being a determining asset.

Diana Bernatek
Chemical Engineering
2017
Medical Center Recycling

UIHSS Green Team
Michelle Nowak

In the beginning of this internship, my goal was to learn and research the challenges in the recycling system of the hospital and how it can be improved. I needed to determine building equipment needs, how bin placement could be improved, and how I could promote recycling in the hospital as effectively as possible. This included communicating with department heads and attending meetings to see how these problems can be fixed. The marketing team and I worked together to build a presentation to the hospital about recycling habits and how the recycling system is improving. A lot of evaluation and analyzing went into this internship and the recycling system has improved as a result.

Matt Briciu and Andrew Pable
Electrical and Computer Engineering
2017
Utilities Management – COE Interns

Utilities Management
Bob Deja, Kimberly Tipton

In the Utilities department we work towards installing Utility meters into the campus in the most effective manner possible so that we can effectively analyze our energy usage. One such investment that we have implemented around campus are accurate building automation tools that allow us to remotely monitor and control buildings and to more easily find and eliminate energy wastes. However, as we transition between systems the data becomes fractured and inadequate at times thus the need for a data analyst rises to maintain the integrity of the data. In addition, these tools are used on an open server platform that allow us to use different products in tandem without running multiple convoluted systems allowing us to keep the jobs open to competition and lowering prices, while we receive a better product. These measures enable us to intelligently make cost effective investments to reduce energy usage and ultimately help make a safer tomorrow.

Emmanuel Dominguez
Civil and Materials Engineering
2015
Storm Water Run Off Research Intern

Civil Engineering
Professor Ben O'Connor

The largest source of water pollution today is contaminated rain and storm water. As part of UIC's Office of Sustainability climate action plan, capturing storm water runoff onsite is a vital mitigation strategy in helping to reduce UIC's greenhouse gas emissions. The key to cleaner water and more sustainable communities is to capture rain where it falls and filter it through the ground as nature intended.

Brian Tomkins
Urban Planning & Public Affairs
2015
Bike Intern

Office of Sustainability
Kate Yoshida

Within the next 5 years, the number of bike commuters is projected campus is to double. As a result, highly congested areas were targeted first to develop new bike parking spaces. With the increase of bikers in the UIC community, bike lanes were proposed to and around campus to mitigate traffic

Ayesha Riaz
Architecture
2017
Energy Initiative Media Intern

Energy Initiative Media
Elizabeth Kocs

- To increase online presence of the energy initiative office by updating website, blog post, social media, and biographies
- Promote the SISE 2014 Program to previous/current participants by updating social media and conducting interviews for upcoming videos.