

Food Sustainability Internship 2015-2016

Elise McConnell

Summary of work

I worked under the guidance of Dr. Sarah Lyon from the Department of Anthropology and in partnership with the Food Systems Initiative Working Group. My internship work included preparing for the Food Systems Studies Symposium held on UK's campus in April 2016. I gathered information about food and sustainability efforts at the University of Kentucky for the symposium, including making a list of food-related courses offered at UK. Additionally, I am compiling a list of current UK courses related to sustainable food, and I plan to help with social media to raise awareness about related activities occurring on campus, making food sustainability work more accessible to the UK community. I also assisted with advertising for the event.

In addition to my work with Food Systems Initiative, I assisted Sarah Lyon with her research on fair trade coffee systems. I studied the topics of coffee rust and coffee farmer resiliency. My research included reviewing articles addressing farmers' resiliency and coding interviews with Mexican coffee farmers.

For my independent research project, I interviewed members of the Shawneetown Community Garden, a collection of 85 garden plots on UK's campus devoted to students and families who live in the graduate and international student housing locations of Shawneetown and Greg Page. My research studied the social, cultural, health, and economic benefits of this community garden. It also explored the sustainability conversations present in the garden. I

presented this research at the 2016 National Conference on Undergraduate Research and at UK's Showcase of Undergraduate Scholars.

Other projects similar to the Shawneetown Community Garden

I visited the Sol, ROOTS, and Castanea community gardens at the University of North Carolina Asheville, and I found that these gardens struggled with involving community members, dealing with transitions in garden managers, and reconciling production and aesthetics in the gardens, which were challenges at Shawneetown as well. However, the UNC Asheville gardens targeted the undergraduate population and served a smaller number of gardeners. To improve the Shawneetown Community Garden, the following resources offer useful information:

International Community Garden of San Antonio

- https://www.facebook.com/InternationalCommunityGardenSA/info/?ref=page_internal
- <http://therivardreport.com/community-gardens-sprout-answers-to-food-security-and-community-space/>

Danny Woo Community Garden

- <http://interimicda.org/whatwedo/sustainable-communities/danny-woo-community-garden/>

Suggestions to build community and expand leadership infrastructure in gardens

- <http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/Neighborhoods/PPatch/Leadership-handbook.pdf>
- http://www.nccgp.org/images/uploads/resource_files/Best_Practices_for_Community_Gardens_-_Denver_Urban_Gardens.pdf

Key campus and community partners

- Agronomy Club
- Alpha Epsilon
- Animal and Food Sciences Graduate Association
- Beyond the Blue
- Big Blue Pantry
- Campus Kitchens
- ChefMed
- College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Student Council
- Greenthumb
- National Hunger and Homelessness Week, UK Center for Community Outreach
- Seedleaf
- Student Sustainability Council
- Gaines Fellows