Students Measure and Study Air Quality in Homes of Community

For the 2014 Spring Semester, Diné College students from the sampling and monitoring course participated in the EcoAmbassador research project. The project received a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) one year ago to investigate air qualities in the region and selected community member’s homes of Shiprock, NM, Tsaile and Wheatfileds, Arizona. Continuing the project this semester was Principle Investigator Joanna Gordon of the University of Colorado and Science Instructor Margaret Mayer of Diné College. The team is currently scheduling presentations to share their research results with community members.

“Interns and students gained valuable experience of being part of an actual research in air quality so important for Navajo people burning wood, coal, and other fuels,” said Margaret Mayer. “Joanna was a marvelous model for students demonstrating her skills and passion working with students and sharing what it means to be doing graduate work towards a PhD.”

The EcoAmbassador research project on air quality began a year ago with 3 interns; Charles James, Tasha Nez, Kiki Begay. Mansel Nelson from NAU also partnered on the project by providing information on equipment that is beneficial to the research. The team focused on sampling homes that used wood, coal, propane, natural gas and pellets as fuel sources. Their work in the experimental stages was completed this semester utilizing measuring apparatuses to sample indoors and outdoors air quality.

The information that was being collected during the project was presented at conferences across the nation. Last year, Ms. Bradley Jean shared some of the study at the Air Quality conference in Phoenix, Arizona. Last summer, Margaret Mayer traveled to Washington DC and presented the project at the Smithsonian and Museum of American Indians. The interns and the students will be providing presentations about their research to community members at upcoming scheduled dates and locations.
Annual Artwalk Gaining Popularity

On April 9, 2014, the Fine Arts Department at Diné College held their annual Art Walk at the Gorman Classroom Buildings at the Tsaile Campus. From the winners selected, a diverse range of artwork was displayed including drawings, paintings, poster design, 3-dimensional works, and photography, were displayed. This year, the event was well attended by the local community and it is quickly gaining popularity, according to Art Instructor Karen Willetto.

“Each year we see more and more people attend the Art Walk. It is a great opportunity for our students showcase their artwork and gain recognition,” said Mrs. Willetto.

Diné College’s Director of Food Services Franco Lee and his staff prepared festive refreshments and catered to those in attendance. Overall the event was a great success, the staff members of the Fine Arts Department are looking forward to planning more upcoming events of the same caliber.

Warrior Cross Country Team Race at Kayenta Half Marathon

On April 12, 2014, Diné College’s Women and Men’s Cross Country Team raced their way to the winner’s circle at the Kayenta Half Marathon. Individual victors, Tizanna Henry and Coach Shaun Martin, led the team’s impressive performance. Crossing the finish line in first place of the 5K races was Dallas Peterman. The Women had two runners cross the finish line in first and second place overall finish. The men’s team filled the first six positions after touring the 13.1 mile course.

Warrior Cross Country Team Results at Kayenta Half Marathon.

Women’s Team
1st - Tizanna Henry 1:44:49
2nd - Annette Brown 1:51:02

Men’s Team
1st - Shaun Martin 1:21:02
2nd - Charles Manymules 1:22:19
3rd - Darnell Ben 1:23:10
4th - Darren Yazzie 1:25:29
5th - Justin Yazzie 1:26:55
6th - Mika Clark 1:26:59