

RodSquad

Upon return to classes in the fall of 2010, Reed Wilson, Matt Jungclaus, and Jamie Harris, with the help of Professor Dana Elzey, started a one credit course to foster involvement in RodSquad. Matt, Jamie and Reed started the semester teaching basic principles of home energy and the auditing process at weekly lectures. About halfway through the semester, the class moved into the field doing actual audits. The first audit was completed by Jamie Harris and was an audit of a local church. Following the initial audit, RodSquad has done numerous energy reviews for local homeowners. Multiple full audits are being scheduled for the coming weeks, and RodSquad is excited to become more involved in the Charlottesville community.

Lecture Series

Amongst the pressing global issues of today's world, the term "sustainability" is often highlighted in reference to alternative energy sources, developing economies, product development and more. With the Lockheed Martin grant, the Rodman Scholars organized a series of lectures aiming to expose students to the various meanings and purposes of sustainability, particularly in relation to engineering under the growing strains on environmental resources today. The lecture series was offered as a 1-credit seminar for Rodman Scholars and consisted of four lectures. The "Engineering a Sustainable World" lecture series began by exposing students to sustainability on the small local scale at the University of Virginia. The third and fourth lectures then focused on larger-scale sustainability, both through explaining the environmental processes important in considering sustainable solutions and through discussing the future of sustainable engineering.

Green Playgrounds

As the fall 2010 semester comes to a close, the final Green Playground project is about to be implemented. A new display board with a light bulb will be completed. Once that is finalized, the final product will be delivered to Greer Elementary School for students to use and learn from. The project group is interested to see how the children react to and learn from the educational, electricity generating bike. The Green Playground project has been a tremendous learning experience, and the group believes that the students at Greer Elementary will greatly benefit from the use of the new playground.

Through the support of a grant from Lockheed Martin, Rodman Scholars have undertaken several student-organized projects to explore ways of incorporating sustainable practices into our everyday lives. Among these projects are RodSquad, a home energy auditing team; Green Playgrounds, a group designing a renewable energy producing playground for a local elementary school; and the "Engineering a Sustainable World" lecture series, a student organized speaker series in which university faculty discussed various social and scientific aspects of sustainable practices.

Rodman's Tackling the Challenges of Sustainability