

Alaska Pacific University • College of the Atlantic • Green Mountain College • Northland College • Prescott College



## Small Colleges, Big Earth

### Eco League Approach to International Learning

Students don't have to choose between the close community and personal attention of a small college and the opportunities for international learning and travel that are part of the advantages of a big university. Attending an Eco League college means access to more than 30 different international programs. This issue of *Green Times* shows how The Eco League consortium not only takes students around the world, but also gives them a way to learn about making it a better place.

### Sinking Roots and Growing Wings through an Eco League Exchange

Students at any Eco League college can participate in semester exchange programs at any of the others. That means that they feel rooted in one close-knit community—with access to the facilities, professors and special places linked to their home college—and can also thoroughly explore the places and people at four other colleges *and* participate in international programs from each of the colleges. Students have the opportunity to study in a variety of environments, from some of the world's biggest cities to remote shorelines and trails. Beyond the pure excitement of traveling, these opportunities foster a global outlook by bringing students face-to-face with issues, cultures and challenges on an international scale.

### Learning How to Help Build Sustainable Communities around the World

Exploring culture and ecology in Nepal, Costa Rica, Mexico, Alaska and Maine; developing community-based conservation strategies in Ecuador, Namibia, Kenya and Vermont; helping school children in Malawi and Arizona; understanding the intersection of agriculture, geology and history in the Italian Alps, Newfoundland, Labrador and the Ojibwa Nation in Wisconsin; and studying ecology in the Bahamas, the Galapagos and the Sonoran desert—these are some of the travel and study experiences to expect with The Eco League. And they can all be launched from the support of a home college where the professors know your name, your food comes from the ground nearby, and you won't get lost in the library.

## Students can travel from

### Alaska Pacific University to study:

Tropical ecology in the Bahamas, Hawaii and the Galapagos

Cultural psychology in Malawi, Africa

History, literature and culture in Greece, Brazil and Argentina

Humanism, literature and the Renaissance in Italy

### College of the Atlantic to study:

Full-term cultural immersion in the Yucatan, Mexico

Advanced research in Guatemala

Tropical marine ecology and literature in St. Thomas and Tobago

Natural history and cultural studies in Labrador, Newfoundland and Quebec

### Green Mountain College to study:

Language immersion in France or Argentina

Culture and history during a semester immersion in Korea

Culture and agriculture in Italy

Ecology, culture and sustainability issues in Brazil, New Zealand and Belize

### Northland College to study:

Ecological living and learning in Iceland

Sustainability in Nicaragua and Costa Rica

Ecology, archaeology and agriculture in Ecuador

Wildlife conservation and cultural immersion and research in Namibia

### Prescott College to study:

Marine conservation, natural history and cultural studies at the College's Kino Bay Center in Mexico

History, politics and conservation in Maasailand, Kenya

Ecology and culture in Costa Rica and Nepal

Culture and environmental education in Norway

## STORIES FROM ECO LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCES

To learn more about student travel experiences, type these addresses into your web browser:

### ALASKA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

Read about Alaska Pacific University student Jessica Kaari's experiences caring for a child orphaned by AIDS in Malawi, Africa.

<http://www.alaskapacific.edu/alumni/newsletter/Contact%20Newsletter/Spring%202008%20Publication.pdf>

### COLLEGE OF THE ATLANTIC

Read College of the Atlantic junior Brooke Welty's thoughts about being part of a delegation of 13 COA students and 2 professors who participated at the Climate Change conference in Copenhagen, Denmark

<http://www.bangordailynews.com/detail/132862.html>

### GREEN MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

Watch a film of "A Day in the Life" of Green Mountain College students studying geology, agroarchaeology, English, history and environmental studies in the semester-long program at Brunnenberg Castle in Italy.

[http://www.greenmtn.edu/news\\_events/brunnenburg-video.aspx](http://www.greenmtn.edu/news_events/brunnenburg-video.aspx)

### NORTHLAND COLLEGE

Watch Northland College student Noel Cockney explain some of the Northern Games, a series of traditional Inuit competitions from the Canadian Arctic, which he demonstrated at the Vancouver Olympics.

<http://www.northland.edu/student-life-videogallery.htm>

### PRESCOTT COLLEGE

Read about how Prescott College students are engaging with the people and land in Kenya and making life better in Maasailand . [http://www.prescott.edu/news/transitions/documents/Summer\\_05.pdf](http://www.prescott.edu/news/transitions/documents/Summer_05.pdf)

*Green Times* is The Eco League's e-newsletter for high school teachers and counselors. We've made this printable version so that you can share the newsletter with students, friends and colleagues. You can subscribe to the newsletter and get it delivered to you email account through the Eco League web site:

[www.ecoleague.org](http://www.ecoleague.org).

**Who We Are:** The Eco League is the only college consortium in the United States dedicated to sustainability education and the active pursuit of environmental studies within a liberal arts framework. Learn more about our member colleges:

**Alaska Pacific University:** [www.alaskapacific.edu](http://www.alaskapacific.edu)

**College of the Atlantic:** [www.coa.edu](http://www.coa.edu)

**Green Mountain College:** [www.greenmtn.edu](http://www.greenmtn.edu)

**Northland College:** [www.northland.edu](http://www.northland.edu)

**Prescott College:** [www.prescott.edu](http://www.prescott.edu)



## In the News

### Eco League Schools among “Coolest” on Sierra Club List

Three of the five Eco League colleges made *Sierra's* elite top 10 of the coolest schools. The magazine sent out 11-page questionnaires to 900 colleges and universities across the United States, asking them to detail their sustainability efforts. The surveys were ranked in a rigorous process that measured commitment to sustainability in categories that included energy supply, efficiency, food, academics, purchasing, transportation, waste management, administration, financial investments, and a catchall section titled other initiatives.

[Green Mountain College](#), at the very top of the list, opened a \$5.8 million combined heat and power (CHP) biomass plant on Earth Day, 2010. In his remarks to about 300 students, faculty, staff, and community members, president Paul Fonteyn declared that by next year GMC would become the first college in the country to reach carbon neutrality after reducing carbon emissions by more than 50%. Throughout the core curricula and across disciplines, GMC students may choose from a number of courses focused on or directly related to developing an understanding of sustainability. Twenty-six Green Mountain faculty are engaged in direct research to improve society's understanding of sustainability.

True to their environmental missions, other top ranking Eco League colleges stood out with innovative sustainability projects. [College of the Atlantic's](#) new residence complex was built with the latest green design features including a foot of insulation, a super efficient wood pellet boiler, in-floor radiant heat, and composting toilets. Sierra also commends COA's sustainable-business curriculum and an affiliated "venture incubator" to encourage eco-entrepreneurs.

[Northland College's](#) campus sustainability initiatives include Dexter library. Formerly an inefficient, power-hungry building, the library was renovated in 2008 and is now a sleek example of what you can build with a little environmental awareness. The library is primarily heated by 30 geothermal wells extending 230' into the earth producing plenty of heat, and no carbon dioxide. Northland is a national leader in the opportunities it provides students to take an active role in changing the way the campus does business. The students with work-study positions in campus sustainability (22 people, totaling more than three percent of all students at Northland) graduate with skills that position them for careers in the growing field of sustainability.

### Get more details about:

- The Sierra Cool School list and ranking system at: <http://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/201009/coolschools/default.aspx>
- Green Mountain College's Biomass facility at: [http://www.greenmtn.edu/sustainability/facilities\\_operations/buildings\\_energy/biomass-facility.aspx](http://www.greenmtn.edu/sustainability/facilities_operations/buildings_energy/biomass-facility.aspx)
- College of the Atlantic's Kathryn W. Davis Residence Village at: <http://coa.edu/kathyrn-w-davis-residence-village.htm>
- Northland College's campus sustainability initiatives at: <http://www.northland.edu/sustainability-campus-initiatives-green-building.htm>