
GOVERNOR'S INSTITUTES OF VERMONT 2008 WINTER WEEKEND

A Focus on Global Climate Change: What You Can Do!

*Increase your awareness of issues
Share your curiosity, creativity, ideas, and energy
Reflect on new information and ideas
Gain skills and tools to effect change*

WORKSHOPS, SPEAKERS, SMALL WORKING GROUPS

Everyone will Focus On Global Climate Change and we will have many activities together over the Weekend. For part of the Weekend you will be part of a smaller working group. Please select your **first and second choice** from the four groups we will be offering. They are:

Current Issues & Youth Activism: How Can We Effect Positive Change?

How can we as individuals, and aspiring activists, respond to such a major threat to our planet and civilization as global warming? When confronted with such an overwhelming threat, it is human nature to go into a state of denial, stop thinking about the problem and avoid taking action. The issue seems so huge that it feels like we, as tiny individuals, can have no impact and we become paralyzed. Of course, this collective paralysis insures that this danger will not be addressed or stopped. We must, and can, find ways to feel empowered to respond to the threat of global warming in realistic and achievable steps that will cumulatively reverse the harmful impact of greenhouse gases on the Earth. The Current Issues and Youth Activism section of this Weekend will address how we can take action personally as well as influence our community, state, and nation in taking leadership to respond effectively to global climate change.

John Ungerleider, Ph.D. has been Program Director of the summer Current Issues and Youth Activism Institute since 1990. John directs the School for International Training's International Youth Peacebuilding Camps for teens from communities in conflict around the world, including Cyprus, Northern Ireland, and the Middle East. He founded the Child Labor Education and Action (CLEA) project for Vermont teens working to fight oppressive child labor around the world.

Holding Our Ground: Action Through Presence

When we are faced with overwhelming and difficult situations, both as individuals and as a civilization, how do we figure out how to respond? Is there one response or many? Where do we go for answers? How do we find ways to respond that are creative, effective, and our own? Through activities that bring us in touch with all our senses, we will explore how our own presence can give us ground not only from which to take effective action, but also to embody the change we want in the world.

This Weekend will be full of information, stimulation, and interaction. This workshop will give us a home base, not only to absorb fully our experience, but through experiential activities (i.e. silly and serious play) to reconnect to ourselves and our relationship to the earth, to listen to our own needs and the needs of the planet, and to feel into our potential and power as people.

Please bring clothing you can stretch and move in, appropriate outdoor wear for walking in the woods and a notebook.

Jasmine Lamb has worked at the Governor's Institute on the Arts for many years. She is a mediator, teacher, and writer. Her growing passion is in what she calls Listening Arts which uses movement, writing, storytelling, and stillness as ways to expand our capacity to listen to ourselves and others.

When not plotting revolution, **Matthew Moreau** divides his time between web design and painting. His work in recent years focuses on the complicated relationship of humans and domesticated animals.

Physical Theatre and Arts In Action! Let's Get a Move On!

In our class we'll acknowledge the theme of this Winter Weekend — climate change, global warming, how humans impact the planet. We will do warm-ups, improvs, physical and vocal training, maybe even some goopy papier macheing and juggling — and we will look at how political activists in other times and places have used the arts to join the fight, to bring a clear important message to their audiences. We will explore how art can create change, raise awareness, educate the masses and beautify a revolution.

We want to empower a group of high school students — no previous theatre or arts experience necessary — to address the climate change issue, with all the skills we have to share. All ideas are on the table, all skills brought to bear. No preconceptions, just a wild creative process, and something — a sketch, a skit, a giant puppet, a show, a one-act play, noisemakers, a musical — serious or funny, stating the problem or throwing out solutions, some final something to share at the end of the Weekend, and some thoughts, banners, ideas, sketches to take to the streets of your hometown.

Sophie Wood makes drama, and dance, and clown-pieces about food and farming and Earth's environment. **Kailie Larkin** is an artist, a poet and an activist at the same time as being a full-time student at Wesleyan University. **Willie Gould** is a clown, musician and sketch-comedy master. All three are globe trotters, Shakespearians, clowns, writers, noisemakers, and old friends.

Science/Engineering: Politics & Projects

In the Science/Engineering strand we will approach global warming from both the global perspective and also focus on what we can do in Vermont, as a state, as members of communities, and as individuals. We will look at Vermont's energy shed, and how it can be best utilized to meet our energy needs. Students will come up with projects that they can flesh out during the Weekend and then continue to work on if they choose. Project topics will include "making my high school green", Vermont's energy policy, my carbon foot print, and what is the role of wind energy in Vermont's landscape. The wind-energy project will involve designing and building wind-energy conversion systems that will also be kinetic sculpture. The sculptures will be taken on tour of the state and finally exhibited in the Fire House Gallery in Burlington next summer.

The goal of the Science/Engineering strand is to use the power of engineering thought to start to address global climate change and reduce our personal impact. The future is ours to create. Let's start now!

Key presenters will be Vermont high school seniors who have undertaken projects to address global warming. **Jessie Ruth** created a ninth-grade science fair project with a budget of 1.9 million dollars to convert the school's heating system from oil to biomass. She will discuss what she did and how she did it. **Tom Tailer** teaches physics at Mt. Abraham Union High School in Bristol and is co-director of The Governor's Institute on Engineering at UVM. His students have recently been written up in many newspapers for their work on transitions to a carbon-neutral Vermont economy. The students presented their work to members of the Vermont House and Senate and to Congressman Peter Welch. In October Tom led the US team to the first International Earth Science Olympiad in South Korea. Tom and his wife Beth live with their sheep and chickens in Essex, Vermont.

REGISTRATION IS ON A FIRST-COME, SPACE-AVAILABLE BASIS.

Ask your high school Counseling Office for registration materials.

DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 15, 2007.

For more information:

Call Jean Olson or Coleen Austin at GIV – 802 229 4757 or email givcol@sover.net

Mission Statement

The Governor's Institutes of Vermont enriches the lives of motivated Vermont high school students through intensive educational experiences on Vermont college campuses. Programs emphasize experiential learning and subsequent community involvement. GIV seeks to enroll students who reflect the diversity of Vermont.