

THINK GREEN NEWS

REDUCE • REUSE • RECYCLE SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES AT UPSTATE



For more Think Green information, visit: green.upstate.edu

July 2015

Meet Gabriel Veras, Upstate Presidential Scholar & Think Green Sustainability Intern!



Gabriel, 22, graduated from Syracuse University in May with a bachelor's degree in economics. He is at Upstate for the summer as part of the Presidential Scholar program in the capacity of a Think Green Sustainability Intern. The Presidential Scholars Summer Internship Program is a strategic initiative sponsored by the Office of the President, and coordinated by the Office of Diversity and

Inclusion in collaboration with the urban community. The goal of the program is to foster the interest of under-represented minority college students (graduating college seniors or currently enrolled graduate students) by providing meaningful and relevant experience in the health care industry and/or for advanced or doctoral degrees related to occupations in an academic health environment. He'll be at Upstate through the summer except for 2½ weeks he'll spend in Europe with a group from SU's School of Information Studies. Gabriel will visit seven cities – including Paris, Rome, Munich and Geneva -- to study cultural differences in the workplace.

So far at Upstate, Gabriel has immersed himself in the university's sustainability efforts on the Downtown and Community campuses. "Everywhere I've been, I've seen a lot of good things going on that people don't know about," Gabriel said. "I want to raise awareness. I want the take-away for future generations to energize others to be more sustainable," Gabriel said. Also on Gabriel's to-do list: assisting with the institution's entry for a University Health System Consortium (UHC) – an alliance of academic medical centers and their affiliated hospitals - Sustainability Award and helping to revise Upstate's Climate Action Plan. "Some people are oblivious to climate change," he said. "What we have to do is raise awareness. I just want to spread the word."

Gabriel also recently completed a proposal for some departments of Upstate University Hospital to switch to rechargeable batteries. The move would be environmentally friendly and result in a small savings after the initial expense of chargers and costlier rechargeable batteries. The proposal reflects Gabriel's economics background and entrepreneurial spirit. It's a proactive approach that aligns well with his interest in sustainability. "In the past, I didn't believe one person could make a difference," Gabriel said. "If you litter, it's just one person's litter ... if you buy a boat, it's just one boat. Through this role at Upstate, going to school and just maturing, I'm able to see how one person *can* make a difference."

Did You Know?

Boiling Water will kill weeds. It is good for driveway cracks, sidewalks and patios. Or in a spray bottle, combine: 1/2 cup salt, a squirt of original blue dawn dish detergent, fill the rest with vinegar and after all the salt has dissolved, spray on weeds.



Picture above: This pile represents just a few hours of garden weeding.

Madison County Open Farm Day

Only July 25, 2015, farms in Madison County provide tours and a chance to sample their produce. It's a great way to explore CNY and local food sources. More info, [here](#).

Weeders to the Rescue!

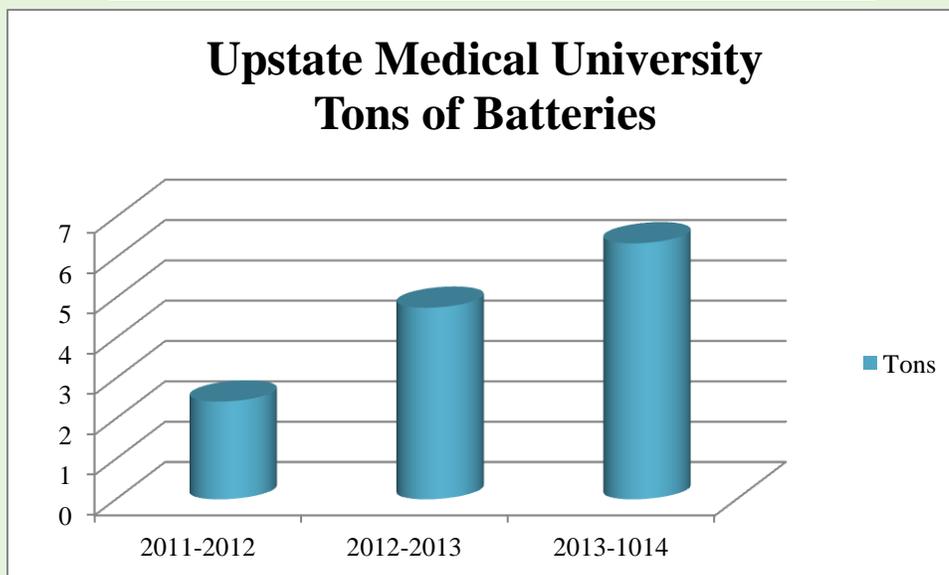
Thank you to Think Green Department Champions Daneen Bellinger, Betsy Holden, Emily Mader, Cheryl Roe and Gabriel Veras for stepping up to dig in and pull weeds in the Community Garden!

July is Battery Recycling Month!

In a continuing effort to promote environmentally responsible recycling practices, Upstate Medical University recycles a broad range of batteries generated throughout the institution. Some batteries contain small amounts of metals, such as mercury and lead, which can be hazardous to human health and the environment when improperly discarded. Upstate has experienced great success with its battery recycling program.

If you have question on how to recycle batteries in your area or would like guidance on how to recycle batteries at home, contact Environmental Health and Safety at #464-5782 or review the 'Management of Spent Batteries Policy (EHS B-03 at http://www.upstate.edu/policies/documents/intra/EHS_B-03.pdf.

Fiscal Year	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-1014
Tons	2.425	4.752	6.35



How To Tell Battery Types Apart

Alkalines come in many different shapes and sizes. They are the typical household battery you would use in a remote control, radio, toy, smoke detector, etc. (AA, AAA, C, D, 6V, 9V, etc.) Some alkaline batteries look a lot like rechargeables and the only way to tell the difference is to read the label.

Button batteries are small, flat, circular batteries often found in hearing aids, watches, calculators, etc. Don't let their size fool you, they contain more heavy metals than most larger batteries, so it is very important to recycle them.

Rechargeables are found in power tools, laptops, phones and other electronic equipment. Some look like alkalines, but are rechargeable; check labels to determine if they are rechargeable.

Many Locations Accept Rechargeable Batteries

Over 50 local places accept rechargeable batteries for recycling at no charge. Check out this [drop off locator](#) to find a spot near you! *Put rechargeable batteries in individual plastic bags and place in special container labeled "Rechargeable Batteries."*

DID YOU KNOW?

Car batteries may be returned to any dealer who sells them, regardless of whether you bought it there or not.

Manage Batteries All Year

Battery collection boxes at these [locations](#) have separate containers for alkalines, rechargeables and button batteries (including hearing aid and watch batteries).

Source of battery information above.