Focus: Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems

I am a Canadian hailing from Montreal, Quebec. A dance encounter with the magical world of permaculture called me back to Canada and I am currently pursuing a Master’s degree in Permaculture and Regenerative Design. I am interested in using food and garden spaces as catalysts for community development, social justice, and cultural preservation and look forward to working with like-minded students and faculty.

EMILY CHAPA
Focus: Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems

I come from a background in engineering and have worked in the aerospace industry for nearly 10 years. I am currently involved in the design and construction of innovative solutions that are environmentally responsible. In my free time, I enjoy hiking, exploring nature, and pursuing hobbies that allow me to recenter myself.

LAUREN DE LA PARRA
Focus: Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems

I am from a small town of Palestine, Arkansas. In 2014, I was accepted into the Dual Degree program of UCA and Endicott College. I graduated in 2012, I was accepted to teach K-5 General Music and 6-8 Choir with Teach for America, and have since moved on to a background in education. Currently, I am working towards a Master’s degree in Education and am passionate about sustainability and health with my students.

DANNY DILLON
Focus: Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems

I graduated from Hampshire College with a concentration in environmental studies and economics. Over the past 7 years, I have worked in the commercial and residential solar industries, where I have focused on developing solutions to critical climate change challenges.

SANTOSH MADHUPALLI
Focus: Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems

I am interested in using food and garden spaces as catalysts for community development, social justice, and cultural preservation and look forward to working with like-minded students and faculty.

MICHAEL POWERS
Focus: Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems

I am from a small town in southeastern Massachusetts where I spent my youth exploring the woods behind my home and developing a love for the outdoors. I was awarded a high school environmental science teacher that I discovered the concepts of sustainability, which sparked a desire in me to pursue it further. I did my undergraduate at Philadelphia University, rose recently merged with Thomas Jefferson University, in Environmental Sustainability. I am most interested in how to create climate resilient cities that generate sustainable and equitable economic growth.

PATRICK KELLEY
Focus: Environmental Quality

I completed my undergraduate degree at Hampshire College with a concentration in environmental and natural sciences. My research focused on the biocycling of environmental contaminants using mass spectrometry in the Cape Cod area. I love the environment and everything that comes with it, which is why I am interested in sustainable energy and renewable resources.

MICHAEL LEUNG
Focus: Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems

I am from Hong Kong and completed my B.A. in Environmental Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. I am interested in the intersection of food systems and urban sustainability. I am interested in pursuing a career in policy related to food systems and urban sustainability.

LEAH WANG
Focus: Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems

I am a Michigan native who loves nature, teaching, and building community. She currently works for UMass Isante in the Student Autism and Autism Spectrum Disorders program at UMass. I have always been fascinated by the role business plays in agriculture. I am a Massachusetts native with a long-time passion for food, health, and the environment. I am currently working on my MBA in Food Innovation Management and am interested in developing solutions to critical climate change challenges.

ERIN WITHAM
Focus: Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems

I graduated from Bowdoin College in 2012 with a degree in Environmental Studies and Economics. Since then, I have worked on small-scale farms in Maine, Vermont, and Massachusetts. I hope to continue my agricultural education here at UMass. Farming and working alongside farmers is most interesting to me and I love the foot-stomping of technology and innovation when it comes out to technologies and techniques specifically for small-scale farmers in New England. I look forward to enhancing my Sustainable Agriculture knowledge to help farmers improve their sustainability so that it can be the ultimate resource for farm and land stewards.

CARLA WITT
Focus: Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems

I am a New England native who loves nature, teaching, and building community. She currently works for UMass Isante in the Student Autism and Autism Spectrum Disorders program at UMass. I have always been fascinated by the role business plays in agriculture. I am a Massachusetts native with a long-time passion for food, health, and the environment. I am currently working on my MBA in Food Innovation Management and am interested in developing solutions to critical climate change challenges.

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