SEED Wayne message travels abroad
Talks out of state and country positively received

Many audiences locally, out of state, and abroad heard about SEED Wayne this year, especially in the last quarter. These included lectures given by Director Kami Pothukuchi at the Lorenzo Center at Macomb College (Nov. 3), Berea College, Kentucky (Oct. 21), and at Wageningen University, The Netherlands (Nov. 29-30).

Other local talks included a keynote to the Sierra Club’s Southeastern Michigan chapter (June 2), and several presentations to community groups, including a Peace and Justice group at Jesu Church led by SEED Wayne friends Jackie Fullbright and Billie Hickey (Sept. 11), and the annual Bioneers conference organized by friends Gloria Rivera and Paula Cathcart.

The talks gave audiences a brief history of SEED Wayne, its approach to sustainable food systems development at Wayne State, and its activities and accomplishments to date as well as glimpses of continuing challenges. Audiences included students, community members, agri-food activists, and senior citizens.

Questions that followed the talks led to engaging discussions about particular activities and issues (e.g., is lead contamination a barrier to gardening on campus or in the city? A: Not on campus; gardening organizations in the city educate gardeners about soil lead issues and test soil on proposed sites. Q: How do you recruit farmers to the campus farmers market? A: Through visits to other farmers markets, web searches, and local networks. Q: Are you able to show improved nutrition of participants in activities? A: We have not specifically tested this, but garden participants informally report eating more vegetables; customer purchases at farmers market and corner stores suggest incorporation of fruits and vegetables in diets). These questions also demonstrate the intense interest of members in sustainable and just food systems in general and particularly in Detroit.

Some conversations that followed related to replication of

Connections made with farm-food activists in several Dutch cities

Consider these brief profiles of sustainable food system activists in the Netherlands: 1. Bessie Schadee works with a diverse group of immigrant women from across the globe in The Hague to set up gardens in their apartment balconies, and engage them about healthy eating and cooking, all the while building networks that help reduce social isolation and build multicultural cohesion. 2. In the same city, Menno Swaak runs a permaculture demonstration garden in which 19 varieties of fruits, vegetables, and herbs are grown in a public park, to help people grow food and participate in other educational activities related to sustainable food systems. 3. Jan Huijgen, a visionary cattle farmer departed from his industrial farming past to create a multifunctional farm in Amersfoort that supports activities in habitat restoration, K-12 education, horti-therapy, meeting facilities and gift baskets assembled for corporate clients, and offers rental space to an artisan bakery. He is a leader in the move to help farmers transition from industrial farming to multi-functional farming in which the non-food benefits of farms are monetized and intentionally developed. Huijgen’s cattle account for only a fifth of his income. 4. Peter de

SEED Wayne wishes all our partners and friends a happy holiday season! Happy Winter Solstice, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa, and Merry Christmas to all who celebrate these holidays! And a relaxing break to those who just wish to chill! We look forward to connecting with you in 2012.


Food, Farmers and Forks
moving beyond the crisis

With prof. Jan Douwe van der Ploeg, prof. Arjen Wals, emeritus prof. Wiel Heling, representatives from the platform agriculture, innovation and society, Royal Tropical Institute (KIT), Transition Towns, ORKAM, producers from Wageningen and more... www.ut-otherwise.nl www.boerengroep.nl www.nu.nl

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Campus Gardens Put to Bed for Winter

The Warrior Demonstration Garden, the St. Andrew’s Allotment Garden, and the Parking Structure 5 Experimental Garden were all put to bed on a chilly week in early November. Program Leader Charles Lisee led a group of four allotees and volunteers to harvest the remaining produce, chop up plants at the soil line, add compost, cover beds with dry leaves dropped off by Facilities Management and Planning staff, and plant garlic on a few beds. SEED Wayne is grateful to volunteers who helped maintain the Warrior Garden, and to St. Andrew’s Garden allotees who participated actively during the 2011 growing season.

The group saved the chopped up plants to start another round of composting in the containers behind the Warrior Garden, and to complement the vegetable scraps that will be added next spring from nearby cafeteria kitchens. The plan developed earlier this year with AVI, the campus food service provider, to increase the amount of quality compost on campus bore fruit this fall, just in time for closing the garden.

There are still small tasks left in closing the gardens for the winter, before we start the low tunnels back up in February. If you are interested in helping finish up these tasks, or becoming involved in the winter gardens, please write Charles Lisee at his email below. Plans for the 2012 season are currently being made. If your group is interested in leasing a garden bed in 2012, please email him at ctlisee@wayne.edu.

SEED Wayne Partners

CALLING WSU STUDENTS!
SEED Wayne relies upon the leadership of students and staff who volunteer. If you would like to participate in SEED Wayne’s activities, please send an e-mail to k.pothukuchi@wayne.edu
Wayne State Farmers Market Buzzes in Midtown!

On October 26, the WSU Farmers Markets closed yet another successful, if a bit more rained-on season! Customers stopped by to get one last taste of the market and say goodbye to their favorite vendors. The 2011 market’s vital statistics are summarized in the accompanying table. On the whole, we increased our SNAP sales by more than 20 percent over last year. However, overall sales were a bit lower because many farmers got a late start to the season, and the extreme rain events on market days kept customers away.

We offered many activities this year: five cooking demos, two skits by Mosaic Youth Theater, one “MI Apple” art project, nutrition resource give-aways to SNAP (food stamp) recipients, and tabling on healthy, seasonal eating, which involved scores of donated hours by highly qualified professionals.

To learn more, google ‘SEED Wayne’ and click on the Wayne State Wednesday Farmers Market tab on the left.

| Total market days (June 8—October 26) | 21 |
| Total vendors | 16 |
| Detroit-based vendors | 9 |
| Woman-owned businesses | 5 |
| Minority-owned businesses (African-American businesses/organizations) | 6 (4) |
| Estimated customers on a typical day | 1,000 |
| Total estimated sales | $250,000 |
| SNAP (Bridge Card) customers a day, average | 50 |
| Total SNAP sales | $12,215 |
| Total Double Up Food Bucks sales | $11,782 |

Cities and Food Class seeks Students with Service-Learning Interests

The Cities and Food class (UP 5999), is to be offered once again in winter 2012 at Wayne State University in room 331 State Hall. Open to graduate and advanced undergraduate WSU students, the class focuses on key problems such as hunger and food insecurity, lack of neighborhood-based access to healthy foods, diet-related health problems, and the problems posed by the global food system to local communities and the environment. It reviews more sustainable responses and ways in which communities may harness local resources to resolve food system problems while also advancing community goals in economic development, health, social equity, and neighborhood vitality.

The course features guest lectures by local food leaders and service-learning projects designed in collaboration with them. This basic structure will continue in 2012. Guest speakers in 2011 included Dan Carmody of Eastern Market, Malik Yakini of the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network, Patrick Crouch of Earthworks Urban Farm, Ashley Atkinson of Greening of Detroit, Dewayne Wells of Gleaners Community Food Bank, and Oran Hesterman of Fair Food Network. Guest lectures are open to the public if space allows.

Last year’s project teams looked at the implications of the Right to Farm Act for Detroit’s urban agriculture policy, assessed a sample of grocery stores to determine if they deserved to be on a list of “full-service” supermarkets, surveyed customers of Eastern Market and Gratiot Central Market, and prepared a sustainable food guide for WSU students. Students came from Urban Studies and Planning, Political Science, Nutrition and Food Science, and Business Administration; a handful of students also came from University of Michigan’s Semester in Detroit Program.

If you would like more information on the class, or reserve a spot for a guest lecture, please contact the instructor at k.pothukuchi@wayne.edu.

Mark Your Calendars

January and February 2012

 Undoing Racism in the Detroit Food System Monthly Gatherings:
January 7, 1-3 pm at MSU Detroit Center, 3408 Woodward Avenue.
February date TBD. Contact undoingracismdfs@gmail.com

Urban Roots Training Program: Learn about gardening and community organizing. Application Deadline: January 23; Classes start February 11. Contact Tepfirah.rushdan@greeningofdetroit.com
SEED Wayne is dedicated to collaboratively building sustainable food systems on campus and in Detroit neighborhoods through activities in teaching, research, engagement, and campus operations.

SEED Wayne works in partnership with community-based organizations to increase access to healthy food, and enhance food security, urban agriculture, farm-to-cafeteria, and food system planning and policy development.

SEED Wayne embraces core university functions in teaching, research, engagement and operations.

Student leadership is central to SEED Wayne’s success.

SEED Wayne projects include campus gardens, farmers market, Detroit FRESH: the Healthy Corner Stores Project, farm-to-cafeteria, and cafeteria composting

SEED Wayne is housed in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning.

4th Annual Harvest Dinner Showcases Awards, Accomplishments

The 2011 SEED Wayne Harvest Dinner, November 4—its fourth since 2008—gathered 75 guests to celebrate the year’s harvests in food and partnerships! AVI chefs outdid themselves in the menu they prepared, which included items sourced from campus gardens throughout the summer and harvested by SEED Wayne program leader Charles Lisee and volunteers, and preserved for this event.

Guests represented such community partners as Detroit Black Community Food Security Network, Earthworks Urban Farm, and Greening of Detroit, as well as campus units such as Urban Studies and Planning, Center for Peace and Conflict Studies, Anthropology, and others. We were also honored by the presence of Gary Pollard, member of the Wayne State University Board of Governors.

The dinner was co-sponsored by AVI Foodsystems, Inc., the university’s food service contractor and an important SEED Wayne partner on campus. The menu included eight delicious items; all contained ingredients from the campus gardens, the WSU Farmers Market, and other local farms and businesses.

Director Kami Pothukuchi thanked SEED Wayne’s community and campus partners, staff, and volunteers, without whom our work—let alone successes—would have been impossible. Leaders Lisee, Christa Powell, Jazmine Wilson, and Sara Farmer made a presentation on the Program’s activities and accomplishments of the year. In 2011, many new activities were offered, such as winter growing at Warrior Garden whose harvests were prepared for tastings at campus dining halls during Earth Week, the Healthy

Food Fairs in two Eastside neighborhoods, Double Up Food Bucks for the entire market season, the MI Apple Art Project at the Wednesday Farmers Market, and more. We won honorable mention from the Detroit Free Press Green Leaders Program and the Michigan Plaque from Keep Michigan Beautiful. We are grateful to friends Julie Osburn and Lisa Kyle of Wayne State University, and Brian Colter of Grosse Pointe Farms for nominating the Program for these awards. And we thank all of you, dear readers, for your support of, and friendship to SEED Wayne! See you in the new year!