

# My Sustainable Sabbatical – Dale Petty © 2009

Good Morning. What a beautiful day. Since you all did such a lovely job singing and signing last August, Tracy and I decided to give you another opportunity. The song is called Kang Ting. It is a traditional love song from China, with some new words from Sally Rogers.

I've added some signs from American Sign Language. To start, put your hands together in front of you and then push them down and away from each other. That's the sign for 'hush'. Hush and listen (put your hand to your ear) to the earth (make a couple Ws, for world and turn the world around), hear (hand to ear again) the song she is singing (move your right hand back and forth over your left arm). Singing rain (pull your hands down with fingers extended) and rocks (bang them together) and rill (make a winding stream) from each valley (scoop down) and mountain (pile up some rocks). Calling (hand to mouth), softly... calling (I'm going to make the sign for whisper here. Notice if I cover my sign, they (to the right) won't "hear" what I'm signing.) From her heart, touch your heart. She is calling (hand to mouth).

Let's try it together....

Hush and listen to the earth  
Hear the song she is singing  
Singing rain and rock and rill  
From each valley and mountain  
Calling...  
Softly... calling  
From her heart she is calling

Song with photos: [Kang Ding, China 2007](#) Photos by Brian Hennessy

<http://picasaweb.google.com/brianhennessy2/ChinaKANGDING2007#5150511763480152034>

First, I want to say THANK YOU! To the Board of Trustees, the WCCEA Board, President Whitworth, Vice President Palay, the Sabbatical Committee, and everyone else who has had anything to do with supporting sabbaticals. The ability to take a sabbatical is an amazing privilege that most people never have, to spend a significant amount of time learning about something that excites you, and not have to worry about money. For those of us whose careers are dedicated to helping people learn, I almost think sabbaticals should be mandatory, so that each of us gets a chance to really enjoy the process of learning just because we want to, not only because there's a class of twenty-four students walking in the door tomorrow morning who expect you to explain in detail how the latest Rockwell Automation ControlLogix programmable logic controller operates so they can solve a problem that has their journeyman stumped.

I'd like to start with a brief story about a man I met in September. I'll call him "Joe the window shade installer". He works for an outside contractor that's remodeling the TI building. A remodeling job for which the college is hoping to receive LEED Silver certification. That means we need to install efficient HVAC systems and lighting, water conserving plumbing, and build with healthy, sustainable materials and minimize our waste, among other things. So imagine my surprise when I moved into my office in August and found that the window shades that were perfectly functional prior to the remodeling had been replaced. Now imagine my surprise when a few weeks later, "Joe the window shade installer" arrived at my door with new hardware for the new window shades. Apparently someone had ordered and installed shades with pull cords, but the architect had specified twist rods. When Joe was done, all of the "old" new hardware was in the garbage can. While Joe was in my office, I took the opportunity to ask him why the shades had been replaced in the first place. "Oh he said, the old ones were "cream" and the architect specified "peach" to go with the new paint job. But, I protested, they worked perfectly well, and I can't even tell the difference between the two. Joe just shrugged. "Hey I'm glad to have the work, I gotta feed my wife and kids you know". If this were a class, I'd break right now for a Case Study discussion. Please answer the following questions: Who was at fault? Where did this process break down? Was the system designed to include accountability? Am I crazy to care about this? If the architect, the buyer, the initial contractor and Joe had all gone to Washtenaw Community College would they have been given the tools to look at this as a systems problem, to make communications a vital part of their business process, to make connections between their job and the others in the chain, to take responsibility for their actions, to care? I don't know all the answers, even for the classes I teach, but I do know that in the new era and new economy that is approaching us at light

speed, the people, the companies, and indeed the countries that master these skills will thrive, and the rest will be left for future academicians to excavate and analyze what went wrong.

As I began to prepare this report on my sabbatical, I started to feel the weight of responsibility to demonstrate to you that I was worthy of this gift. In September, the world was my oyster, which I with the sword of the sabbatical would open. My sabbatical sped by... September, October, November, December... Now, here in January I'm thinking where did it go? Maybe John Lithgow was right:

"Time sneaks up on you like a windshield on a bug." - John Lithgow

### **So what DID I actually do?**

I think the most important thing that I did was to participate in conversations about questions that matter. Some of these I initiated, some I joined in progress. Some were just me curled up on a chair with a new book full of ideas, some were in meeting rooms with 6, 12, 200 or 1800 people. It probably doesn't sound like much. Maybe you've been told as I have, to "stop talking and get to work". But as we leave behind the Industrial Era and enter into the energy-climate-information era, innovation, collaboration and dialogue will become increasingly valuable and necessary skills. Having spent a large part of my career holed up in electronics laboratories, it was a stretch for me to get out and dialogue with people, to make connections, but I'm very glad I did, and it would not have been possible with a full teaching load. Thanks again for the sabbatical!

When you go on any journey, you expect to meet interesting people, and I was quite blessed in this regard. If we had more time, I would love to tell you about all of the people I "met" on my sabbatical journey, but for now, here's a sampling.

First there are my local heroes, WCC faculty from a diverse group of departments, who are thoughtfully preparing their students for a future full of challenges and opportunities. Harriette Moore, David Wooten, Tom Penird, Tom Zimmerman and Don Werthman all shared their exciting ideas at the first ever faculty seminar on Sustainability in the Curriculum in November. It was kind of a "the few, the proud, the brave thing", but I am hopeful that this will help lead to further and deeper, inter-division conversations.

There are dedicated local community heroes that I met like Amanda Edmonds, Executive Director of Growing Hope, an Ypsilanti based organization dedicated to "Helping under-resourced and disadvantaged people in improve their lives and communities through growing their own nutritious food.

And Donele Wilkins whose organization Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice, is dedicated to training underemployed residents of Detroit for jobs in the new Green Collar Economy.

And then there are the national figures. Meet Van Jones, dynamic Oakland, California community organizer and author of the Green Collar Economy, who is dedicated to the proposition that Green Collar jobs must be used to revitalize under privileged communities in America.

Meet Wilson Community College President and sustainability "evangelist" Rusty Stephens. He asserts that community colleges are exactly in the right position to become leaders in the new economy – because we can adapt quickly, we are dedicated to the future of our students, and we are connected to the community.

Meet Thomas Friedman, NYT columnist and author of Hot, Flat and Crowded . He says, America has a problem, we've become complacent and fearful and lost our place as the world's leaders in innovation. The world has a problem, it's increasingly hot, flat, and crowded. America can solve its problem by taking leadership in developing innovative solutions to the world's problems.

I'd like you to meet an amazing architect named William McDonough, whose basic tenet, "Waste = Food" has led him across the world, designing Oberlin College's Center for Environmental Studies, the green roof at the Rouge plant, sustainable fabrics for a Swiss textile manufacturer Rohner, and a sustainable factory for Herman Miller in Holland, MI.

Another hero I would love for you to meet is Ray Anderson, CEO of international carpet giant, Interface, Inc. When Ray read Paul Hawken's The Ecology of Commerce a few years ago it turned his life around. Then he

decided to turn his company around and made a commitment to have zero negative impact on the environment by 2020. Today he is on track to reaching his goal. Along the way he is “giving away” many of the solutions his company has generated, realizing that in this new era, the old ways of competition at all costs are obsolete... and his company has expanded and gotten more profitable in the process.

I have DVD and CD presentations of many of these people that I would love to share with you. Just give me a call.

### **So I met a bunch of fine people, but what did I actually DO? (see details in Appendix)**

A friend of mine suggested that I just “do the numbers”. So here goes:

- Assisted in the installation of one solar photovoltaic system
- Attended a one week long training course on solar photovoltaic system installation
- Created two web sites, one for Sustainability at WCC and one for my faculty website
- Camped for three nights on the shore of Lake Superior
- Attended four conferences on sustainability and the environment
- Helped to organize five sustainability events
- Gave six presentations, three concerts and two interviews
- Read ten books about sustainability, organizational change, and education
- Rode for twelve miles on public city bus transportation
- Viewed sixteen video presentations and listened to one audio CD on sustainability
- Attended sixteen lectures and other events on sustainability and the environment
- Talked with twenty four or more faculty, staff and administrators about sustainability at WCC
- Talked with twenty community college colleagues on a conference call about sustainability
- Ate dinner with my wife forty-five more times than if I had not been on sabbatical
- Visited my ninety year old father in Arizona two times
- Rode six hundred miles on my bicycle
- Rode four thousand miles on public rail transportation (Amtrak)

### **Sabbaticals are supposed to be about learning, so what did I learn?**

What I learned about myself:

When it came to setting goals for my sabbatical, Mother was right: My eyes really are bigger than my stomach.

I don't have to do it alone. There are dozens of community college across the country dedicated to working on sustainability. There were 1800 people who attended the AASHE 2008 national conference on sustainability. There are many faculty, staff and administrators at WCC ready and willing to help, and I am especially blessed to be working with the dedicated members of the Environmental Committee.

What I learned about sustainability at WCC:

The Solar apprentice training class I took this fall could easily be taught in our department, but the question remains, when will the jobs follow? There is currently a lot of interest among local builders, automotive engineers, and techie homeowners in renewable energy.

WCC is far from the cutting edge of the higher ed sustainability movement, but we aren't at the tail end either.

The OE remodeling project is being planned to incorporate many green building features and there is talk of using the building as a laboratory for a new Environmental Science Program.

The Purchasing Department is looking into helping the college switch to certified Green Cleaning products that will be healthier for the environment and our staff.

What I learned about sustainability at other colleges:

There are many colleges and universities with programs in Alternative Energy, including Macomb CC, Oakland CC, Lansing CC and Grand Rapids CC.

To get specifics on other colleges, check out the National Wildlife Federation report card on Sustainability in U.S. Higher Education.

From what I learned at AASHE, a lot more could be done WCC. Here is a small sampling:

There are campuses such as Seattle University that have become almost pesticide free.

Middlebury College has committed to becoming climate neutral by 2016.

Campuses have made commitments to composting their food waste, buying local food, buying only fair trade coffee, to green computing and green purchasing programs.

At some campuses, students drive the environmental programs.

At some campuses, faculty drive the environmental programs.

There is a National teach-in day on the environment every January.

The University of Colorado at Boulder has zero waste football games.

You can get grant money for sustainability projects.

What I learned about the solutions:

There are good, science based plans available to help us solve our climate and sustainability problems.

Princeton professors Robert Socolow and Stephen Pacala have come up with the method they call Stabilization Wedges that helps us plan a strategy to becoming carbon neutral.

Lester Brown from the Earth Policy Institute has produced Plan B 3.0, Mobilizing to Save Civilization.

My wife, who's usually years ahead of me on these things, has already moved on to Plan C, building resilience into communities to help cushion the shocks that are inevitably headed our way.

There are no environmental problems that are isolated from social problems

Solutions will be community based and created out of dialogue involving all the stakeholders. Arizona State put on a nationally televised Sustainable Solutions Summit that included the President of the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Executive Chairman of Ford Motor Company, a Former President of Shell Oil Company, Democrat and Republican US Representatives, and the Chairman of the Board at Wal-Mart.

And here's a hopeful note from evolution biologist Elisabet Sahtouris: Life began with intense competition between microbes for a few billion years. They developed technology, there was mass hunger and pollution. But eventually they started negotiating differences, working out cooperative schemes, and bacteria formed a new kind of cell with multiple components. Then the cells started working together and there were multi-celled organisms and we really started making progress! She figures that humans may now be forced to evolve to that stage, working mostly cooperatively across the world, across species towards a sustainable future. So to sustain my own efforts, I'm taking the long view. Even if I can't get you to toss your recyclables in the correct bin and ride the bus to work, evolution is on my side.

The useful solutions to tomorrow's problems will mostly come from people who can work together, work with diverse groups, make connections and do systems thinking. I started off this session with a traditional love song

from China. Modern day China has surpassed the U.S. in total GHG emissions. If they get to the point of passing our per capita emissions, it will probably be too late for the world to avoid the most severe consequences of climate change. We are well aware in Michigan of the consequences of sending our manufacturing work overseas. And the recent upheaval in economies around the world is helping us recognize just how much we are connected. But now our societies are not only linked economically, but also in environmentally significant ways. We can no longer afford to look at a problem as Detroit's problem or Michigan's problem or China's problem.... they are all connected.

Using "old thinking" corporate CEO's in the past have looked at only the economic bottom line, primarily for the short term benefit of the stockholders. Now companies around the world are thinking about the Triple Bottom Line – profits, and people, and the planet. When Indonesia cuts down another acre of rainforest, when Pakistan mines its underground water, when China burns coal, generating air pollution that clouds the air in Los Angeles, it is not a local effect. I feel that one of the most important jobs we can do as educators is to get our students to understand that we are all connected... deeply, but in poorly understood ways, and that amongst humans, plants, animals and the earth itself "an injury to one is an injury to all". One hundred years ago the Wobblies, the International Workers of the World, understood this. How can we, as members of a labor movement that has traditionally only recognized this in very limited ways, expand our thinking to include the world?

### **So What's Next?**

You might remember that last August I reported that Dr. Whitworth had signed the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC). An agreement, currently between 600 institutions across the country, to lead America into the energy-climate era. That was Step 1).

Step 2) was accomplished last week when Dr. Whitworth designated the Environmental Committee as the "internal structure" to implement the commitment. The committee has the advantage of having a long history at WCC, having been started by Dave Thomas back in Geologic Time, and being known in the community. It has pretty wide representation from staff across campus. I will be working with the WCCEA to develop more faculty participation and with Ian Griffin from Student Activities to get more student representation. If you have students that are interested and whom you feel could make a contribution, please forward their names to Ian. And we will be looking for participation on specific issues from the I.T. department and Purchasing. A little later in the process we will be looking for input from community members.

The committee has begun Step 3) which is to select some immediate, tangible actions that demonstrate our seriousness. Some of these we already have a start on, such as building and remodeling our facilities to LEEDs silver or higher standards.

We have begun to make a commitment to supporting public transportation with the new \$10 per semester, go anywhere bus pass. By the way, transportation to and from the school is a big chunk of our carbon footprint. Please give this new program your support, by encouraging students to sign up, and by personally signing up and making a commitment to ride the bus at least one day a week.

For my own commitment I purchased a bus pass for those deep snow days, and I also entered the Winter Bike Commuter Challenge.

Here's some other unconventional transportation solutions we might consider.

We are just getting started on Step 4), which is to do a Greenhouse Gas Inventory for the college. During my sabbatical I led a couple Carbon Footprint workshops for students, staff and faculty to increase awareness of the process. We're planning to get a couple students involved in this work. Maybe you have someone in mind. It would look great on someone's resume. Maybe it would read something like: "Performed analysis of college greenhouse gas emissions which led to a multi-million dollar cost savings in the first year!"

Our GHG inventory will direct our next step, which is to develop an action plan to becoming climate neutral. We will really need faculty input on this. We'll need people to help lead the dialogue in specific areas such as: green building, renewable energy, energy efficiency, healthy landscaping, sustainable food, waste minimization, sustainability in the curriculum, and updating the college's Mission & Values, Master Plan and Strategic Plan to include sustainability.

So far I have obtained direct offers of help from several individual faculty members as well as the endorsement for the ACUPCC from WCCEA. I hope to get the other unions endorsements as well.

The ACUPCC requires that the college report on “the institution’s current educational offerings related to climate change and sustainability” and then to “make climate neutrality and sustainability a part of the curriculum and other educational experience for all students”. Example actions suggested include faculty developmental workshops, establishment of a graduation requirement in sustainability, encouraging faculty across the institution to address sustainability in their courses, and various student activities.

Starting in September, I began an informal survey of faculty about climate change and sustainability content in existing courses. Through my reading and research, I have come to believe that preparing our students to understand and take their part in the new energy-climate era is one of the most important things we as faculty can do. And therefore I was surprised at the difficulty I had in unearthing sustainability content in the curriculum. Unlike Diogenes, I had no difficulty in finding honest men and women.

I heard many honest responses such as: “I’d like to, but I’m not informed enough myself”, “I’d like to but the syllabus is already jam packed”, “I teach \_\_\_\_\_ and it has nothing to do with climate change or sustainability”, “global warming, global schwarming”, and (apologetically), “No, but I use recycled paper in my classes”.

But most conversations led to leads to other conversations and I gradually collected some good examples, from a wide variety of courses in English, Business, Biology, Graphic Design, and Excel. When I finally got around to contacting Harriet Moore, I was delighted by her response... “you should have come here first, Sociologists talk about everything.”

On the extra-curricular front I have been able to help Ian Griffin of Student Activities put together an environmental lecture series. I want to put in a plug for a few upcoming events:

- Jan 27<sup>th</sup>, a Green Building Seminar
- Feb 5<sup>th</sup> a presentation on Wild Utah: America’s Redrock Wilderness”
- And in March, Ann Arbor mayor John Hieftje speaking on Ann Arbor’s climate change commitment and how WCC can support this effort.

Also coming up are:

- WCC’s celebration of Earth Day 2009 on April 16<sup>th</sup>
- RecycleMania National Competition - January 18 through March 28

Please get involved and encourage your students to do the same.

I want to end with a story about Joe... the Building Scientist. Joe Lstiburek, Ph.D. is internationally recognized as an authority on moisture related building problems and indoor air quality and one of the world’s foremost authorities on energy efficient construction techniques. Joe was the keynote speaker at the Remodel Green 2008 Expo and Conference, held at EMU in October. It was an exciting conference with numerous vendors of “green” products and services, workshops on Green building techniques, all headlined by keynote speaker Joe the Building Scientist. Perhaps because he’s so smart, perhaps because he is the expert in a vital, but poorly understood field, Joe has a somewhat arrogant style. As he got into the architectural details, he was a bit over my head, and I just sat back and didn’t mind too much when he sarcastically condemned architects for their inefficient designs. But when he went on a rant about ‘the myth of global warming’ I perked up. His summary statement was something like, “so what if it is true, and the melting ice caps raise the sea level, I don’t know anyone who lives in Bangladesh, do you?” I wanted to jump up and shout “Yes I do, and they deserve to live as much as you do”, but as a sufferer of Midwesterner Shyness Syndrome, I remained in my seat and stewed.

Until recently I never had a personal connection to Bangladesh, but a year ago my daughter married a man whose father came from Bangladesh in the 40’s to work at the Rouge plant. When Hansen visited his father’s home village recently, a thousand people lined the streets to welcome him, a man they’d never met, back “home”. A thousand people who have contributed very little to global warming, but may be the ones who suffer the most from it. A thousand people who are looking to America to step up to the plate and create innovative solutions for the world. For some reason, seeing the videos of Hansen’s “homecoming” brought tears to my eyes, and a deep

connection to the people of his family's village. It made me want to watch out for that family like I watch out for my aging father in far off Arizona.

As we move into the future, we need Joe's designs for healthy, energy efficient buildings, but we need Joe to move his thinking into the "hot, flat and crowded" future in a way that includes everyone. Joe was educated at the University of Toronto, but if he had started out at WCC, would he still have made that statement about Bangladesh? I think he probably would not have if he had taken Harriet Moore's class and studied Social Problems: Lessons from Other Societies. He would at least have been exposed to diverse ideas and diverse cultures and have had to grapple with his understanding of other people. Sustainability isn't just about the whales or the polar bears anymore. We need new technology, but that will not be sufficient. This is a human issue as much as anything. It's about caring, learning, reaching out to people with limited means, working in partnership with communities to solve economic and social problems and improve quality of life... all things to which we in the community college are dedicated, and at which we excel.

A few years ago one of my wife's pre-school alumni, age five, heard her mom talking on the phone to a ChemLawn sales representative. When her mom hung up the daughter said to her, "He must not have gone to a very good pre-school. He didn't learn that those chemicals will go down the storm sewer and into the creek and kill the little creatures." She was taught at Blossom Home Preschool to think critically and make connections and care.

Let us strive toward a future where people look around at those creating innovative, sustainable, systems oriented, caring solutions and say, "he must have gone to an excellent community college... she must have gone to Washtenaw Community College."

Thank you!

- Dale Petty, January 6, 2009

This talk (text and slides) and a sustainability resource list are on the web at:  
[http://courses.wccnet.edu/~petty/index\\_files/Projects.htm](http://courses.wccnet.edu/~petty/index_files/Projects.htm)

## **Appendix: Details of What I Did On My Sabbatical**

- **Attended training**
  - Great Lakes Regional Energy Alternatives (GLREA) Solar Photovoltaic Apprentice Training, October 20-24, WCC
- **Created a web site for Sustainability at WCC**
  - <http://orchard.wccnet.edu/~petty/index.htm>
- **Attended conferences**
  - Creating a Culture of Sustainability Conference (sponsored by AASHE), Denver, May 28-30, 2008
  - 2008 State of the Huron Conference, Huron River Watershed Council, WCC, Sept 24, 2008
  - AASHE 2008: Working Together for Sustainability, Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education Conference, Raleigh, N.C., November 9 – 11, 2008
  - The 4th Annual Great Lakes Bioneers Detroit Conference, October 17-19, 2008 Marygrove College, Detroit
- **Read books**
  - Earth in Mind: On Education, Environment, and the Human Prospect, David W. Orr, Island Press, 2004
  - Sustainability on Campus: Stories and Strategies for Change, Peggy F. Barlett and Geoffrey W. Chase, MIT Press, 2004
  - 147 Practical Tips for Teaching Sustainability, William M. Timpson, et al, Atwood Publishing 2006
  - Plan B 3.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization, Lester R. Brown, Norton, 2008
  - Hot, Flat and Crowded, Thomas L. Friedman, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008
  - Learning for Sustainability, Peter Senge, et al, Society for Organizational Learning, 2006
  - The Thin Book of Appreciative Inquiry, Sue Annis Hammond, Thin Book Publishing Company, 1998
  - Appreciative Intelligence, Seeing the Mighty Oak in the Acorn, Berrett-Koehler Publishers, Inc., 2006
  - The World Café, Juanita Brown and David Isaacs, Berrett-Koehler Publishers, Inc., 2005
  - Making Time, Making Change: Avoiding Overload in College Teaching, [Douglas Robertson](#), New Forums Press, 2003
- **Gave talks, interviews, concerts, organized events**
  - The Vine... A world turning green, by Daniel Smolkin, Science & Tech Editor for the Voice, Sep 2, 2008 (interview)
  - Environmental Committee table at WCC Welcome Day, Sept 16, 2008 (set up and staffed), WCC
  - Green Challenges and Opportunities, Tom Penird's "Innovation" class, Sep 19, 2008 WCC, (speaker)
  - What's Your Carbon Footprint, Sep 26, 2008, WCC, (speaker and organizer)
  - Walkin' Jim Stoltz – Come Walk With Me, Sep 28, 2008, Allen School, Ann Arbor (primary organizer)
  - "Envisioning a Sustainable Future at WCC, a Faculty Professional Development Committee presentation led by Dale Petty with Tracy Komarmy, Tom Penird, Don Werthman and Tom Zimmerman, Nov 6, WCC, (speaker and organizer)
  - How Large is Your Carbon Footprint?, by Daniel Smolkin, Sci-Tech Editor for the Voice, Dec 1, 2008 (interview)
  - An Evening of Sacred Song, Dec 6, 2008, Temple Beth Emeth/St. Clare's Episcopal Church, Ann Arbor, (performed music)
  - Strategies for a Sustainable Future", Greater Ann Arbor Society of Human Resource Management (GAASHRM), Ann Arbor, MI, Dec 9, 2008, (speaker)
  - Your Personal Carbon Footprint: Strategizing to Save Money, Save the 'Hood and Save Civilization, Dec 11, 2008, Student Activities Environmental Lecture Series, WCC, (speaker and organizer)
  - Pathways to Sustainability at WCC, Anne Broderick's WTMC Biology class, Dec 16, 2008, WCC, (speaker with Barry Wilkins)
  - Blossom Pre-school Solstice Celebration, Dec 19, 2008, Schaeffler Park and Leslie Science and Nature Center, Ann Arbor (performed music)
  - Pinecrest Adult Care Home, Nov 28, 2008, Prescott, AZ (performed music)
- **Attended lectures and events**
  - *Germany's Greenest Mayor, Boris Palmer, Discusses Climate Change and Ann Arbor's Sister City of Tübingen*, May 13, 2008, Ann Arbor Public Library, Ann Arbor
  - Global Warming: Can Michigan Meet the Challenge?, Henry Pollack, PhD, U of M Professor of Geophysics, Joyce Penner, PhD, U of M Professor of Atmospheric Sciences, Barry Rabe, PhD, U of M Professor of Public Policy, May 15, 2008, Concordia University, Ann Arbor



- Ann Arbor Mayor's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Green Fair, June 13, 2008, Ann Arbor
  - Celebrating Water: Replacing Storm Pipes with Beauty, landscape architect Cory Gallo, Sep 10, 2008, Ann Arbor Public Library, Ann Arbor
  - Tour of Platinum LEEDS home on Ann Arbor Home Remodelers Tour, Sept 14, 2008, Ann Arbor
  - What Will Michigan Eat? How our State Government Bungles the Food System and Threatens our Future, with Chris Bedford, Center for Economic Security, Sierra Club Huron Valley Group, Sep 16, 2008, Matthaei Botanical Gardens, Ann Arbor
  - Hot, Flat and Crowded, Thomas L. Friedman, Sept 17, 2008, EMU
  - Go Solar Ann Arbor, John Wakeman and GLREA, Sept 20, 2008, WCC, (attended and helped set up)
  - Fourth Annual Hope's Harvest, Growing Hope Fundraiser Dinner, Sept 21, 2008, Ypsilanti
  - Dave Strenski, Solar Presentation, Student Activities Environmental Lecture Series, Sept 23, 2008, WCC
  - Sustainability and Social Justice, Guy William and Donele Wilkins, Sept 25, 2008, Crazy Wisdom Bookstore, Ann Arbor
  - Remodel Green 08 Expo and Conference, Oct 31 – Nov 1, 2008 Eastern Michigan University
  - Third Annual Agrarian Adventure Harvest Dinner, Nov 7, 2008, Tappan Middle School, Ann Arbor
  - John Deere Wind Farm and Laker School District, Nov 15, 2008, Pigeon, MI
  - 3rd Annual Ecology Center Fall Fundraiser, Sandra Steingraber, Ph.D., internationally recognized expert on the links between the environment and human health., Nov. 20, WCC
  - Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association (GLREA) Annual Meeting, Dec. 13, 2008, Detroit Institute of Art, Detroit
- **Viewed video presentations and listened to audio CDs**
    - National Conference on Sustainability for Community Colleges, April 16 & 17, 2008, Lane Community College, Eugene, Oregon
    - Sustainability: Community Colleges at the Heart Center, Rusty Stephens, Ed.D. President, Wilson Community College
    - [Preparing for Life in a Climate Neutral World](#), Denis Hayes, President, Bullitt Foundation
    - An inconvenient truth, Al Gore, Paramount Classics and Participant Productions
    - The Next Industrial Revolution: William McDonough, Michael Braungart and the Birth of the Sustainable Economy, Bullfrog Films, 2001
    - Shell Energy Scenarios to 2050, [http://www.shell.com/home/content/aboutshell/our\\_strategy/shell\\_global\\_scenarios/scenarios\\_videos/](http://www.shell.com/home/content/aboutshell/our_strategy/shell_global_scenarios/scenarios_videos/)
    - Sustainability Solutions Summit, September 19, 2008, Arizona State University <http://www.asu.edu/vppa/sustainabilitysummit/index.html>
    - Frances Beinecke, President, Natural Resources Defense Council
    - Anthony Cortese, President, Second Nature
    - William Ford, Executive Chairman, Ford Motor Company
    - John Hofmeister, Former President, Shell Oil Company
    - Rob Walton, Chairman of the Board, Wal-Mart
    - US Representative Edward Markey (D-MA)
    - US Representative Fred Upton (R-MI)
    - Bioneers Conference Plenary Sessions, Oct 18, 2008, San Rafael, CA [https://secure.bioneers.org/2008\\_conference](https://secure.bioneers.org/2008_conference)
    - Nature's 100 Best: Top biomimicry Solutions to Environmental Crises, Janine Benyus, founder of the Biomimicry Institute
    - Sustainable Solutions Over Centuries: A New Business Model, Dune Lankard, Eyak Athabaskan native and lifelong commercial fisherman
    - Sustainability in Action, Ray Anderson, founder of Interface, Inc.
    - Some Like It Hot, But Lots Don't: the Changing Climate of US Politics, David Orr, professor of Environmental Science at Oberlin College
    - The Environmental Life of Children – from Placenta to Puberty, Sandra Steingraber, Ph.D., internationally recognized expert on the links between the environment and human health
    - Native Sun, CNN International "Global Challenges" presentation
    - Fuel Efficient Stove Project, Trees, Water, People
    - Re-Naturing Education, David Orr, Cheryl Charles, Fritjof Capra and Lisa Bennett, Bioneers Conference Workshop, 2008
    - Thinking together: collaborative learning in science / interactive teaching in physics, Eric Mazur, Derek Bok Center Series on College Teaching (Harvard), 2007
    - The art of discussion leading, Chris Christensen, Derek Bok Center Series on College Teaching (Harvard), 2007
    - Pathways Out of Poverty Through Green Collar Jobs: The Role of Scholarship in Improving Quality of Life for Urban Residents, Dr. Raquel Pinderhughes, PTK 2008 Honors Seminar Series