



# THE TARTAN



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## College majors get greener

PHYLIS KIM  
Staffwriter

Environmentalism on college campuses across the nation may now be spreading from student groups to primary majors and minors. The Oregon Institute of Technology was the first college to create an undergraduate major in renewable-energy systems in 2004. The decision was inspired by the growing need for students to become more aware of environmental issues in their lives and careers, in light of the strain placed on the nation's resources, according to *Inside Higher Ed*.

Since OIT, many other universities have established similar programs.

In 2006, the State University of New York in Canton started a four-year degree program in alternative and renewable energy.

Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C., already offers an undergraduate degree in appropriate technology, an environmentally and socially responsible approach to engineering. In September, Illinois State University in Normal will establish a major in renewable energy.

OIT has reaped nothing but success since instituting its major in renewable-energy systems. The professors all attest that their students are offered a plethora of jobs and that companies call them constantly trying to recruit, according to *Inside Higher Ed*. Renewable-energy systems has become the most popular major at Oregon.

"We can go into energy auditing, solar design, energy modeling," said Mac Lewis, an OIT graduate with the renewable-energy systems major, in *The New York Times*. "There are engineering firms looking for people like me. Photovoltaic manufacturers are coming here. Wind energy companies. There are nonprofit groups that are interested. And that's just what's going on around Portland."

Peter Madsen, a professor of ethics and social responsibility at Carnegie Mellon, explained the reasoning behind the creation of such an area of study.

"We are in the midst of an environmental crisis with such challenges as global warming, ozone depletion, species decimation, and various forms of pollution all standing in need of

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## Student government elections run flawlessly

CLAIRE MORGENSTERN  
Dossier Editor



(Left to right) Pooja Godbole and Jared Itkowitz were elected as SBVP and SBP, respectively, after the Elections Board confirmed the election results Tuesday afternoon.

Carnegie Mellon students successfully elected their new Student Government Tuesday. The Elections Board revealed the new executive branch will be made up of student body president (SBP) Jared Itkowitz, a junior business administration and Chinese studies major; student body vice president (SBVP) Pooja Godbole, a sophomore business administration major; and vice president of finance (SBVPF) Evan Oshero, a junior business administration major. After the elections debacle of last year, where it took several failed attempts to elect current SBP and SBVP Sean Weinstock and Adi Jain, this year's election went off without a hitch.

Itkowitz received 1136 votes from the student body, roughly 68 percent of the total electorate. His competitor, junior policy and management major Dorian Adeyemi, received 489 votes. Oshero received 925 votes, about 62 percent of the total number of votes for his

position. His opponent, sophomore business administration major Sagar Mehta, received 540 votes, according to *stugov.andrew.cmu.edu/elections/results*.

"The elections caught me on edge," Oshero said. "I thought it would be closer with [Mehta] so I was genuinely surprised with the results."

A total of 1779 students voted in the election. Of these, 504 were students from the Carnegie Institute of Technology; 324 from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences; 210 from the Mellon College of Science; 143 from the School of Computer Science; 137 from the College of Fine Arts; 116 from the Bachelor of Humanities and Arts, Bachelor of Science and Arts (BSA), and Science and Humanities Scholars (SHS) programs; and 175 graduate students.

"I would say the turnout was on par," Oshero said. "It was not great and it could have been better."

The greatest number of

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## Students kick it up in the 'Burgh

NADEGE CHAFFAUT  
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Aside from science and the humanities, some Carnegie Mellon students are studying sneakers this semester. The Student College (StuCo), an organization of classes taught by students, debuted a new course this semester called Sneakerology 101, a three-credit course dealing with the history, culture, and design of sneakers.

The class will culminate this Wednesday with its final exam, planning a sneaker festival called "Kicksburgh," aimed at promoting urban culture and gathering sneakers for charity.

The class was created by Elliot Curtis, a junior social and decision sciences major, and Jesse Chorn, a junior economics major. Curtis and Chorn also teach the course.

Curtis and Chorn created the class simply for their love of sneakers, or "kicks," as they call them.

"There is so much you can learn from the culture of sneakers. [This class] really represents what CMU stands for," Curtis said, citing such examples as pride and genuineness in one's culture.

The class has gained national attention from the media, particularly from online bloggers covering urban culture.

"This makes me want to go to CMU," one user blogged on *www.sneakerflies.com*, an urban culture discussion forum.

Students taking the class are just as excited as the bloggers.

Hannah Pileggi, a sophomore statistics major, and Casey Taylor, a junior English major, had nothing but positive reviews.

Pileggi described it as an "entrepreneurial experience" that gave her a wealth of knowledge and a new creative outlet.

Taylor is happy that Carnegie Mellon is gaining recognition in a unique area.

"The class is able to show everyone the creative side of CMU," Taylor said.

With 42 students, the class was moved to a larger lecture hall than initially planned. The course covers the history of sneakers, present day hip-hop fashion, and even features guest lecturers.

Taylor praised the class for being "proactive about trends" and "always up to date."

In its activities and exams,

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## University tuition reflects low endowment

MATTHEW E. CAMPBELL  
Copy Staff

For one year of a Carnegie Mellon education, entering first-years will pay approximately \$50,000, which is the cost of a fully-equipped BMW convertible. The rise comes at a time when Ivy League and top-endowed schools like Harvard, MIT, and Stanford are cutting tuition for middle-class families, a move made impossible for Carnegie Mellon due to its small endowment.

In the latest hike, Carnegie Mellon's Board of Trustees set a 6 percent rise in tuition to \$39,150 that follows an 8 percent increase in 2007-2008, outpacing the average 6.3 percent increase colleges experienced that year, according to College Board.

However, those increases are not adjusted for inflation. Just as people nationwide are finding their wallets emptied by gas pumps, for example, universities too are hurt by rising prices. Over the last decade, the cost of private colleges and universities have only increased 2.6 percent after including inflation.

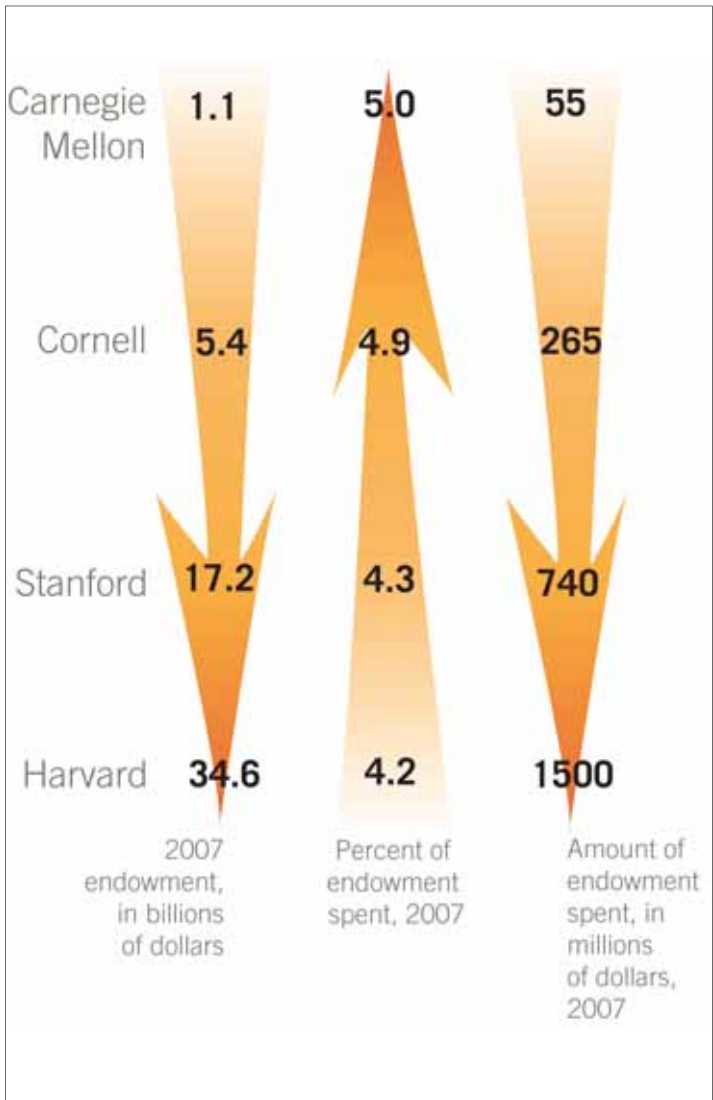
"People have become kind of numb to the rising costs of higher education," said Judith Cole, Carnegie Mellon's

director of Alumni Relations and mother of a son at Hampson College in Massachusetts. "They just throw their hands up and bear with it."

The rising tuition at Carnegie Mellon and most other universities buck the trend being set by well-endowed schools like Harvard (\$35.6 billion), Stanford (\$17.1), and MIT (\$9.9), which are cutting tuition for middle-class families even as their tuition rises. MIT recently announced that students whose families make less than \$75,000 do not have to pay tuition and will receive grants to cover room and board.

"The move by many of the top-endowed institutions to discount tuition for their middle income students is something that by and large the higher education community applauds," said Bryan Cook, associate director of the Center for Policy Analysis at the American Council on Education. "However, it is important to keep in mind that many of these institutions are among the 10 to 12 largest-endowed universities in the country and that the remaining 95 percent of higher education institutions are not in a position to do exactly what these

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Jessica Thurston/Forum Editor

## New major in global politics will explore analytical social science base

MARILUZ ORBAY  
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Carnegie Mellon's department of social and decision sciences (SDS) and the International Relations (IR) Program have joined efforts to introduce a new major and minor in global politics. The major deals with the intersection of culture, politics, markets, and technology; the overlap between domestic politics and international relations; and the challenging process of economic, social, and political transitions.

Extracting lessons from studies in ideology, identity, religion, culture, and technology, the new major aims to instruct students on the analytical groundwork of international relations. In contrast to the international relations major — which requires the declaration of a primary major in a different department — students will

be able to choose this area of study as a primary major.

Global politics is also available as an additional major and minor, allowing students to explore additional areas of interest.

"This new major blends the social science track of the international relations major with the international aspects of the political science major, offering students skills and theories through which to understand global and international relations from the perspective of analytical social science," said Traci Sebastian, advisor of the IR Program.

According to Sebastian, even though no single discipline can encompass all aspects of a global society, analytical social science can offer a considerable basis of understanding, and this is exactly what global politics intends to do.

The new major has received



Lizsee Solomon/Art Editor

an enthusiastic response from students, Sebastian said. Even before the major was announced last week, students who had heard about it unofficially contacted her in hopes of declaring it their major.

"In the two days following the announcement of the major, traffic to our website nearly tripled," Sebastian said.

Along with SDS and IR faculty members, Sebastian believes it is an exciting opportunity for students not only to successfully prepare for careers in global and international affairs, but also to acquire knowledge and skills that will help them to grow into better citizens of the global community.

Sebastian has been giving presentations about the major to some newly

admitted students and their parents, and a considerable amount have expressed interest in pursuing global politics when they begin at Carnegie Mellon in the fall.

The global politics major, while integrating various departments, does not have a foreign language requirement.

According to Susan G. Polansky, professor and head of the Modern Languages department, learning a foreign language, although not required, is ideal for any student wishing to pursue any kind of global studies.

"My personal opinion is that the study of modern languages is very important for an individual seriously pursuing work in global studies in order to develop knowledge and familiarity with the associated culture or cultures," she said. "The new major offers a fine opportunity for students to pursue their

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