Final Report

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OES Map and App Intern
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Introduction

The aim of this position is to manage the Oberlin Eco Tour app for iOS, as well as the Sustainability Map, which can be found at https://new.oberlin.edu/office/environmental-sustainability/sustainability-map/. I will give tours of the solar array, as well as other areas on campus. Additionally, I hope to engage with sustainability initiatives, both on and off campus, and work to educate students about local opportunities and events.

Accomplishments

- WOBC Ecolympics PSA: I worked with WOBC, Oberlin College and Community Radio, and the Prospect Elementary School Student Council to write and record a promotional PSA to be played on the radio.
- Tours of solar array: I accompanied Bridget on a number of tours to the solar array behind North Fields, and was able to show a number of friends around the area as well.
- Campus tours: I co-lead a number of tours around campus which visited areas that are featured on the Sustainability Map.
- Ecolympics rock wall hours: Hosted open hours twice a week during Ecolympics during which new and experienced climbers were invited to hang out, rock climb, and learn about the wonders of climbing outside, while leaving no trace.
- Coding on Swift: In order to make edits on the app, I taught myself how to code on Swift with the help and guidance of a math and comp sci major.

Challenges

There were a number of challenges that I was presented with this past year, most of which having to do with managing the app. I came into this position with no prior experience on coding in any language. I believe that if, in the future the OES would like to make and maintain an app, this position would be much better suited for someone who has spent a considerable amount of time learning to code. Coding is really interesting, and there are coding “camps” that feature intensive trainings that can be very beneficial. Being a full-time student and trying to learn Swift was incredibly stressful.

Additionally, there was not enough support on campus for the development and maintenance of an app for iOS. Most people that I reached out to were not trained in Swift, had little experience with coding and app development, or were not available to talk with me. Also, the source code for the original app was lost, and no one but the original developer had the code. Thus, it could not be retrieved.
In the future, if we would like to make a new app, I suggest that we have a development team comprised of 3 or 4 people who are all trained in Swift, all have the source code, and all work to develop the app together. These steps would make it much easier to maintain and work on the app in the future.

**Key Stakeholders**

Bridget Flynn: bflynn@oberlin.edu
Bridget was my boss and fearless leader. She provided me with contact information for many people who I reached out to over the course of the semester. She also provided me with many laughs and good restaurant recommendations.

Augustus Arthur: aarthur@oberlin.edu

**Recommendations**

As I mentioned above, I would suggest that if we wish to make an app in the future, we create a team of 3 to 4 members who have been trained in coding and can develop the app together.

**Suggestions and Insiders Info**

The original app was written in Objective C, which is now outdated. A new app could be made using the framework of the old one in Swift, but only if the source code were to be found. Without the source code, the app would need to be rewritten completely. This is not a job for someone who has taught themselves to code, but rather it is a big undertaking that requires some previous training.

**Conclusion**

I really enjoyed working with Bridget and the rest of the OES staff this year. Although much of my work was very confusing and lead to a number of dead ends, I came out of this position having much more knowledge about what goes into making an app for iOS, as well as a new appreciation for those who make apps, it’s not an easy task. I look forward to having the opportunity to come back next year and begin focusing in on the Sustainability Map, solar array tours, as well as more PSAs and marketing of OES.