Everybody's business: in Gustavson’s classrooms

There’s a reason celebrations revolve around feasts and parties always happen in the kitchen: food is a unifying force. It has also been the bread and butter of Post-Doctoral Fellow Lorenzo Magzul’s career. Before he earned degrees in Environmental Science and a PhD in Food Systems, he grew up in an indigenous community in Guatemala, where his father raises corn. Over the past few decades, Lorenzo has seen the effects on indigenous communities as government and big business press local producers to shift from growing food for themselves to growing food for the world. Eighteen Gustavson undergrads have signed up for Lorenzo’s elective COM 450 Local Food Economy and Food Security to learn more.

They’re analyzing the effects of climate change and worldwide economics on global food systems, and they’ll dig in with innovative local food initiatives that support the local economy. They’ll help a seed farmer in Metchosin build her online sale of heritage seeds, work with a local bulk purchasing and distribution system program to get more greens into school lunches, develop a marketing strategy for the sale of mason bee hives by an NGO and create a book of coupons and activities that promote the purchase of local foods.

“The students were quite affected by a video about our food system being hijacked,” Lorenzo says. “[They] are really excited about the projects.”

Everybody's business: instructions for a bad day

BC spoken-word artist/genius Shane Koyczan created this video, Instructions for a Bad Day, with students on Vancouver Island.

Everybody's business: kids

The WITS program, researched and housed at UVic, has a heartload of anti-bullying resources for teachers, parents and kids.

Winter Walk to Work winner!

Gustavson’s first foray into international Winter Bike (or Walk) to Work Day was fun! The weather was even warmer and drier than the 10-degree forecast, so CSSI wheeled to campus in shorts and a long-sleeved t-shirt. Katherine Gauthier of Economics enjoyed the sunshine on her walk to work that day and is the happy winner of the CSSI draw prize of coffee, tea, and a cute button that expresses her affection for two-footed transport.