Fall 2026 Newsletter / Volume 16

UF Sustainability Studies

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

A NOTE FROM THE NEWSLETTER TEAM

Sustainability requires people from all walks of life who study, work, and collaborate doggedly. At the University of Florida, we are fortunate to count many such people in our ranks.

Our newsletter documents their sustainability in action. From research and teaching to art, nature, business, and communications, these stories demonstrate the ways sustainability is a verb in our community.

They give us hope as environmental, economic, and social challenges continue to mount, and we hope they do the same for you!

IN THIS EDITION:

Upcoming Events

Sustainable Gators:

- Student Spotlight
- Alumni Spotlight
- Faculty Spotlight

Glocal Gainesville:

- Art & Media
- Nature Spots
- Organization
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- Footprint

The Newsletter Team

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Dr. Goodstein Lunch & Lecture:
Thursday, Nov. 5 from 4:00-5:30 PM

- **Venue:** Pugh Hall Ocora Room
- Lunch in Anderson Hall room 117 at 11:30 and a talk about fundamental ways sustainability can help change the world. Dr. Goodstein is the Director of Bard College's Center for Environmental Policy.
- **Website:** More information here!

Beginning Beekeeping:
Saturday, Nov. 7 from 9:00 AM– 3:00 PM

- **Venue:** Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory (1881 Natural Area Drive, Gainesville, FL)
- UF IFAS Extension Alachua County has developed courses that'll help you get started with beekeeping.
- **Website:** Tickets

Cigarette Surfboard Film
Monday, Nov. 9 from 5:30 - 7:30 PM

- **Venue:** The Gainesville Garden Club (1350 NW 75th St, Gainesville, FL)
- This inspiring documentary highlights how grassroots movements can foster tangible change and protect our ocean. Free pizza and popcorn.
- **Website:** RSVP HERE.

Fun with Flowers:
Tuesday, Nov. 10 at 9:30 AM

- **Venue:** The Gainesville Garden Club (1350 NW 75th St, Gainesville, FL)
- A floral design and arrangement workshop. Attendees craft an arrangement they can take home!
- **Website:** The Gainesville Garden Club Event Details

Rise Against Hunger Meal Packaging:
Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 9:30 AM

- **Venue:** UF CALS (2142 Shealy Dr, Gainesville, FL)
- A volunteer event where participants package nutritious meals for communities in need.
- **Website:** Rise Against Hunger Events

Weanling Extravaganza:
Saturday, Dec. 5 at 3:00PM

- **Venue:** IFAS Horse Teaching Unit (1934 SW 63rd Ave Gainesville, FL)
- Horse show that is free and open to the public. Afterward, stick around for a student meet and greet.
- **Website:** Details & Dinner Tickets

Stay up to date with all of our events **here**.

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Sustainable Gators: Student Spotlight

- Summer 2026 Highlight: Ashton Weber
- Spring 2026 Highlight: Addison Hall
- Fall 2025 Highlight: Abigail Trachtenberg

Zoey Almquist-Hardin



Sustainability students tend to be unique. The interdisciplinary nature of our major means we find our niches in different places, but we often have one thing in common: we rarely do just one thing. Zoey is no exception.

She is a senior, double majoring in Sustainability Studies and Sociology. In her not-so-free time, she interns at the Community Weatherization Coalition (CWC), a local nonprofit that helps reduce Gainesville's energy burden by performing home tune-ups to lower residents' energy bills. She conducts home tune-ups herself and handles outreach, volunteer coordination, and social media for the CWC. Homeowners and renters in Alachua County can apply for a free home tune-up or volunteer with the CWC!

She's also co-president of the Gainesville Chapter of the Sunrise Movement, leads the Sustainability Studies Student Association, and serves as a Youth Action Fund Election Fellow.

Zoey sees sustainability as something hopeful: "There is enough for everybody in the world to lead really happy, healthy lives." For new students, her advice is to dive into what you love, and she promises you'll be in good company: "The whole department is super supportive, super close-knit, and I love it."

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Sustainable Gators: Alumni Spotlight

Summer 2026 Alumni Highlight: Angela Melidosian
Spring 2026 Alumni Highlight: Sofía Aviles
Fall 2025 Alumni Highlight: Cameron Delgado

Campbell Al-Khafaji



Campbell Al-Khafaji came to UF planning to be an ecologist. Today, she's a legislative policy fellow at the ACLU of Alaska through the Alaska Fellows Program.

A recent Sustainability Studies graduate, Campbell (she/her) also majored in women's studies. Her favorite course at UF was Dr. Anantharam's ecofeminism.

While studying ecology, she realized that while she loved nature and the climate, she was most passionate about people. That shift led her to policy. She first interned at the Environmental Law Institute with its Climate Judiciary Project and People, Places, Planet podcast, then at the World Wildlife Fund, where she joined WWF Florida's Lobby Day to advocate for grasslands conservation. In Gainesville, she found community through Climate Action Gators and the Sunrise Movement. These groups kept her going. Climate work can feel isolating, she says, so friends who bring silliness, joy and laughter matter.

Her advice to current students: keep your passion at the center of what you do, but "be flexible in the avenue in which you pursue it. Sometimes the best thing is just starting somewhere and pivoting from there."



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Sustainable Gators: Faculty Spotlight

- Summer 2025 Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Kumaran
- Spring 2026 Faculty Spotlight: Ron Chandler
- Fall 2025 Faculty Spotlight: Anna Peterson

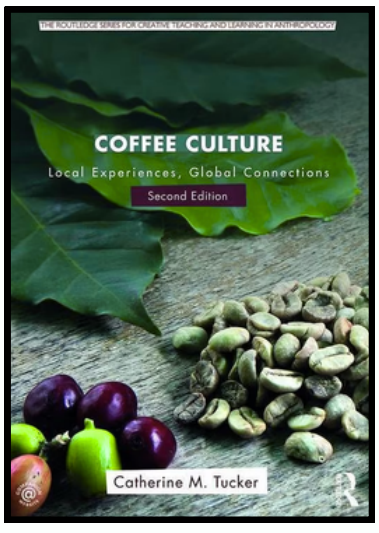
Dr. Catherine Tucker



Dr. Catherine Tucker is a social-environmental researcher and professor in the University of Florida's Anthropology Department and the Center for Latin American Studies.

She co-founded the Mountains Sentinels Collaborative Network and currently serves as President of the International Association for the Study of the Commons.

Dr. Tucker focuses her research on how humans can use natural resources sustainably and how we have successfully done so throughout history. Since 1993, she has collaborated with Indigenous communities across Peru, Mexico, and Honduras, observing their approach to communal forestry and ecocentric coffee production.



In Spring 2026, she will teach Florida Anthropology (ANT 4930/ANG 6930) and Coffee Culture (LAS 4935/LAS 6938)

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NATURE SPOTS

Gilchrist Blue Springs

If you are looking to explore the outdoors, make a splash, or experience the magic that makes Florida's springs so special, take a trip to this wonderful park.



Located 5 miles west of High Springs, Blue Springs State Park is known for its clear waters and lush surroundings. Spanning over 400 acres, the park lets visitors kayak the Santa Fe River, dive in its clear waters, or snorkel! Visitors may also camp, hike, and picnic!

The entry fee is $6 per vehicle, and Blue Springs State Park is open from 8:00 AM to sunset every day. Discover Florida's natural ecosystems, immerse yourself in nature, and plan a perfect outdoor getaway to this hidden gem in the heart of Alachua County.

Check out their website **here**.

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GLOCAL ORGANIZATION

ARCI AVIAN RESEARCH and CONSERVATION INSTITUTE

The Avian Research and Conservation Institute, or ARCI, is a nonprofit focused on researching birds in the United States and South America. Through innovative monitoring, the institute is collecting data to better understand migration and nesting patterns to preserve birds and their habitats in Gainesville and beyond.



Photo from ARCI's Facebook.

Check out ARCI's website!

Watch their Youtube Videos!



Students can support avian populations as well. Being aware of surrounding bird populations and current migration routes is a good first step. And ARCI offers volunteering opportunities for students who want to get involved in the field or contribute remotely.

For more information, email arci@arcinst.org.

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GLOCAL BUSINESS

glo·cal
/ˈglōkəl/
adjective

reflecting or characterized by both local and global considerations.

Fehrenbacher's Meats & Eats is a local meat market and deli, offering a unique variety of premium meats, cheeses, sandwiches, salads, and more, all while supporting environmentally friendly agricultural practices.

The restaurant sustainably sources all of its meat from local growers, providing some of the freshest farm-to-table options available in Gainesville.

The restaurant also offers various delicious and creative plant-based plates, making it a perfect spot for conscious meat-eaters and non-meat eaters to have lunch and hang out!



- Address: **411 SW 4th Ave**
- Check out their Instagram!

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ECO' FOOTPRINT

What is an ecological footprint?

The measurment of how much productive land and water is needed to provide the resources an individual, city, or country consumes.

Why does it matter?

It helps us understand whether we are using nature's resources faster than they can be renewed and whether we are living within our ecological means.

Key Components:

Ecological footprints account for cropland, forests, fishing grounds, grazing land, carbon emissions, etc.

How can I reduce my footprint?

1. Unplug electronics not in use
2. Use public transportation
3. Wash clothing in cold water
4. Incorporate plant-based meals in your diet
5. Shop locally
6. Avoid fast fashion
7. Mitigate reliance on single-use plastic
8. Take shorter showers
9. Reduce the use of Artificial Intelligence
10. Vote/advocate for sustainable policies

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MEET THE NEWSELETTER TEAM



Emilia Arnold



Addison Hall



Paige Hughes



Michelle La Roche



Abigail Trachtenberg



Dr. Billesbach

Where to find us:

Instagram: @ufsustainability

Website: sustainability.clas.ufl.edu/