

Fall 2024 / Volume 10

SUSTAINABILITY STUDIES NEWSLETTER

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ABOUT

The Sustainability Studies Newsletter provides information about events, people, and places dedicated to sustainability. It is published at the beginning of fall, spring, and summer semesters and is exclusively available to University of Florida Sustainability Studies students and alumni. This edition focuses on events and opportunities in and around the Gainesville community.



GLOCAL IN GAINESVILLE

Find out more about sustainable stores, restaurants, organizations, places to visit, events to participate in, and career opportunities that think glocal in Gainesville.

glo·cal

/ˈglɒk(ə)l/
adjective

Considerate of local and global impacts, essential to sustainability

Critter Creek Farm Sanctuary



Critter Creek Farm Sanctuary is a science-based outreach and rescue sanctuary for cows in the U.S. They have many events to support rescued Cows such as Farmers Moo-ket. This Market allows visitors to feed and meet the critters at the sanctuary. They also have local vendors featuring local plant-based food, art, and kids' activities.

All donations go toward caring for their rescued critter residents.

Click [here](#) for more information!

Karma Cream

Karma Cream is a local, plant based, and organic place to get a variety of treats! They have coffee, bakery items, sandwiches, and delicious ice cream, that is all vegan.

Located on University Avenue, this is a great place to meet up with friends, do some studying, or just go enjoy some alone time with a delicious bowl of ice cream.

One of the few fully vegan options in Gainesville, Karma Cream is promoting sustainable living by making plant based food more accessible!

Click [here](#) for more information!



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Great Florida Cleanup



The Great Florida Cleanup is more than just an event—it's a movement towards a cleaner, greener Florida. On September 21, 2024, volunteers across the state came together to pick up litter, raise awareness about pollution, and promote environmental responsibility. This movement is a collaborative initiative led by EARTHDAY.ORG and #UNLITTER. They are aiming to remove at least 1 pound of trash in each of the 67 counties in Florida.

Click [here](#) for more information!

Local Events

recurring

[Alachua County Farmers' Market](#)

Date: Saturdays

Location: 5920 NW 13th St,
Gainesville, FL 32653

Hours: Opens: 8:00 AM

[Grove Street Farmers' Market](#)

Date: Recurring Mondays

Location: Cypress & Grove Brewery
Hours: 4:00-7:00 pm

upcoming

[Sustainable Art: Waste into Wonder](#)

Saturday, September 28th
Curia on the Drag

[Learn to Compost Workshop](#)

Thursday, September 26
Southwest Community Garden

[Quail Hollow Conservation Festival](#)

Saturday, November 2nd
Heartwood Soundstage

GLOCAL IN GAINESVILLE

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more info LOCAL ORGS

For more information, visit this website [here](#)

Santa Fe Teaching Zoo



The Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo is an on-campus zoo that houses over 70 different species of wildlife. It also is maintained by over 100 students who are enrolled in Santa Fe College Zoo Animal Technology program. This is a great education activity for all-ages to see native and exotic wildlife!

Click [here](#) for more information!

Opportunities

intern

[Keep Alachua County Beautiful](#)

Gainesville, Florida

Their mission is to beautify, conserve resources, recycle, educate and preserve our community's environmental legacy. Sustainability Interns and volunteers are always needed.

[Alachua Conservation Trust](#)

Gainesville, Florida

ACT has semester long internships in the Fall, Spring, Summer for students 18y and older that are seeking to deepen their experience in natural resources and nonprofit careers.

volunteer

[Earth Day Organization](#)

[We are Neutral](#)

[Eco Clean Marine](#)

[Project Sunshine](#)

[The Nature Conservancy](#)

[Gators Volunteer](#)

GATORS TRAVEL

Some new ideas to improve your summer vacation and explore new places both within and beyond the Gainesville community!

UF in Croatia Food and Global Change



UF in Croatia is a study abroad program sponsored by UF that takes students to travel across Croatia to gain a better understanding of agricultural systems- both small and large scale. It addresses how global changes, such as climate change have had an impact on these systems.

Click [here](#) to learn more information!

Vacation Opportunities

day trip

[Ichetucknee River](#)

Float down the river with friends as a chance to cool off from the heat!

[Rainbow River](#)

The perfect day trip that includes paddling or diving, depending on activity level.

night trip

[Tallulah Gorge State Park](#)

Visit our neighboring state of Georgia for scenic hikes and camping throughout this canyon! The Tallulah river circles a 1,000 ft gorge!

GATORS GOING GREEN

A closer look at how UF students, clubs, alumni, and faculty all contribute to a more sustainable future.

more info: STUDENT CLUBS

visit orgs.studentinvolvement.ufl.edu

> Log in

> Organization

> Find an organization.

Career Showcase



UF Career Showcase is a great networking event for undergraduate students to meet various companies, employers, and representatives for future opportunities.

From September 23rd to September 27th, there will be events all day everyday to meet recruiters from companies all round Florida and the United States. Many companies have internships or full-time job options for students focusing on sustainability.

LinkedIn Alumni Network

The UF Sustainability Studies Alumni Network on LinkedIn aims to connect current students and alumni with each other. This network frequently features local and global career opportunities, local UF Sustainability news, and general environmental current events.

By creating a network of Gators passionate about sustainability, new opportunities and insightful conversations can arise. This network is also open for alumni and students to post their own content regarding career opportunities.



GATORS GOING GREEN

Professor Spotlight

Jawata Afnan Saba

Jawata Saba is currently working on her PhD at UF and teaching classes in the Department of Geography. She primarily focuses on hazards, risks, and vulnerability of coastal areas and people.



How did you get into the sustainability space and industry?

My primary research focus people's vulnerability and resilience within the context of hazard geography. As a PhD. candidate I had the opportunity to teach several courses. In Fall 2023, I chose to teach Geographic Science and Sustainability. I am specifically interested in how the field of sustainability approaches hazards and disasters.

What do you hope to do with your PhD?

With my PhD, I aim to advance both the academic and practical understanding of sustainability challenges. I hope to continue contributing to research that provides better understanding in disaster resilience, climate change adaptation, and sustainable urban planning. Additionally, I want to mentor the next generation of geographers and sustainability professionals, equipping them with the knowledge and tools to address these pressing issues. My long-term goal is to create resilient communities to natural hazards and climate change using the sustainable techniques available within the communities.

How can GIS and geographical sciences advance sustainability initiatives?

GIS is a powerful tool for visualizing, analyzing, and understanding spatial data, which is critical in sustainability efforts. Whether it's mapping vulnerable communities to disasters, optimizing the use of natural resources, or assessing the impact of urbanization on ecosystems, GIS enables us to make data-driven decisions.

GATORS GOING GREEN

Jawata Afnan Saba

(cont.)

Geographical sciences provide the broader context, helping us understand the complex interactions between human and environmental systems. Together, they allow us to model scenarios, assess risks, and design interventions that promote sustainability at local, regional, and global scales.

What important skills do you recommend for students wanting to get into GIS work?

Many people use GIS primarily as a set of tools and techniques, which is perfectly fine. However, I always emphasize to my students that even if GIS is being used as a tool, it is essential to have a solid understanding of the underlying theories. When we make decisions based on software analyses, we need to critically assess whether those outcomes make sense. To do so, it's crucial to have a strong grasp of what goes into the models, why certain factors influence outcomes, and how to interpret the results accurately.

In addition to technical proficiency, such as mastery of Esri software and programming skills, students should also develop critical thinking, problem-solving abilities, and effective communication, both within teams and with the public. These are transferable skills that are valuable across disciplines.

In my class, students engage in frequent discussions, where every student has the opportunity to express their viewpoints. The goal is for them to work collaboratively in groups, share their ideas, listen to others, and learn to appreciate diverse perspectives.

What advice do you have for sustainability students?

For students pursuing sustainability, I recommend approaching the field with curiosity and a multidisciplinary mindset. Sustainability is a broad, interconnected area, and staying informed on emerging issues across environmental science, economics, social justice, and technology is crucial. Build a strong foundation in both theory and practice, engage in fieldwork or internships, and develop adaptable problem-solving skills. Remember, sustainability isn't just about environmental stewardship—it's also about promoting equity and resilience in human systems.

I encourage my students to always speak up. It's important to express your thoughts clearly and coherently. While public speaking may come naturally to some, for most of us, it's a skill that can be learned and developed. I firmly believe that if you're not at the table, you're on the table. So, don't be afraid to voice your opinions and share your ideas.

Finally, stay passionate and persistent. Positive change in this field takes time, but your efforts can make a significant impact.

GATORS GOING GREEN

Alumni Spotlight Shannon Sawtell

Shannon graduated UF as a double gator with a BA in Sustainability, BS in Marketing, and MS in Marketing in 2023. She now works full time at HP as a Personal Systems Stewardship Claims Program Manager and is the director of the marketing and intern program at #UNLITTER



What made you decide to study sustainability at UF and continue to work in sustainability now?

I decided to pursue a bachelor's in sustainability studies at the University of Florida because I was drawn to the corporate social responsibility field. I knew I wanted to make a positive impact, but I wasn't entirely sure how to achieve that at first. Studying sustainability felt like the right first step to build a strong foundation and explore different areas where I could make a difference.

What was your favorite involvement from your time at UF?

My favorite involvement during my time at UF was definitely with #UNLITTER. Through the organization, I helped organize various clean-up events, outdoor yoga sessions, and other activities that promoted sustainable and mindful living. It was inspiring to engage with others and encourage them to adopt eco-friendly practices in their daily lives.

GATORS GOING GREEN

Shannon Sawtell (cont.)

You have been very involved within #UNLITTER, how did you get started with that organization and what goals do you have for the organization?

I first got involved with #UNLITTER after seeing a sticker on a surfboard rack in my hometown when I was in high school. That small moment sparked my interest in the organization. Over the years, I've had the pleasure of growing with #UNLITTER and even founded the internship program, which has been an amazing way to get new college campuses involved. My goal is to continue expanding our reach and impact, especially through the internship program and sustainable initiatives.

You are working full time in a role focused on sustainability, where do you hope to grow from here?

My current role focuses on sustainability marketing regulations, particularly in regions like the European Union. It's been fascinating to see how greenwashing regulations are affecting companies and how they approach sustainability. Moving forward, I hope to grow into a leadership role where I can help shape global sustainability policies and strategies, ensuring that companies are held accountable while driving real change.

What is one piece of advice you have for incoming sustainability students?

My biggest piece of advice is to take detailed notes during your studies and keep them on hand. Once you start your career, those notes will be incredibly useful as a reference for tackling real-world sustainability challenges. It's all about staying organized and being prepared!

BEHIND THE NEWSLETTER

Cameron Delgado EDITOR



Cameron Delgado is a fourth year Sustainability Studies student who is earning minors in Environmental Justice and Policy, Communication Studies, and Public Relations. She is also working towards a certificate in Geospatial Information Analysis and participating in the Social Impact and Sustainability Initiative Scholars Program and International Scholars Program. At UF, Cameron is involved in Green Greeks as the Executive Vice President, and as the Events Director for her sorority-Kappa Alpha Theta. This past summer, she interned at Verde Environmental, an environmental consulting firm, as an Environmental Science Assistant, which she is continuing throughout the school year. She is also working with #UNLITTER as a Marketing and Branding Intern. After graduation, she hopes to continue her education in a graduate program!

Dr. Thiele DIRECTOR & DEPARTMENT HEAD



Dr. Leslie Thiele is the Director of Sustainability Studies and oversees the Active Learning Program (ALP) in the Center for Adaptive Innovation, Resilience, Ethics and Science (UF CAIRES). He teaches the gateway and capstone course for the Sustainability Studies Program as well as political theory courses and seminars in the Department of Political Science.



Welcome to the newest Sustainability Studies Class of 2028!

Contact

If you have questions, suggestions, or contributions for future newsletters, please contact Cameron Delgado at camerondelgado@ufl.edu