

Spring 2024 / Volume 8

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

*/ˈglōk(ə)l/
adjective*

Considerate of local and global impacts, essential to sustainability

Flashbacks Recycled Fashion



Flashbacks Recycled Fashion is a thrift store that buys, sells, and consigns modern and vintage clothing/accessories, etc. They are family owned and have been in business here in Gainesville for the past 36 years!

They have various events and features such as a Y2K drop, pop-up markets, Valentine's day sales, and social justice campaigns.

Shopping second hand at Flashbacks is a great way to reduce your carbon footprint and support a local business. Check out their social media and store to see the cool items they have!

WHERE

220 NW 8th Ave,
Unit 20,
Gainesville, FL

WHEN

Every Day
12pm-6pm

MORE INFO

Phone Number:
(352)-375-3752
website:
flashbacksrecycledfashions.com

Vegan Gator Food Truck



Vegan Gator Food Truck is a local Vegetarian/Vegan Restaurant that serves up delicious classics like burgers and chicken sandwiches in a more sustainable way!

Their menu is broad and includes many foods that vegans/vegetarians would otherwise not be able to eat. These include cauliflower wings, shrimp baskets, and poutine fries.

They take part in local food truck festivals and can be found all around town.

Vegan Gator Food Truck also supports other local sustainable businesses such as Critter Creek Farm Sanctuary where they help raise money for the cow sanctuary.

WHERE

Depends on the day,
check their Instagram

WHEN

Tuesday-Saturday
12pm-7pm

MORE INFO

Instagram:
@vegangatorfoodtruck

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The Florida Vintage Market



The Florida Vintage Market is a vintage clothing, sustainable fashion, and makers event that takes place all around the Sunshine State. It travels to areas such as Gainesville, Orlando, and Miami.

Vendors can sign up with the Vintage Market to sell their artwork, jewelry, second hand clothing, and much more!

In Gainesville, they usually come once a month to Midpoint Eatery or Bo Diddley Plaza, where students flock to attain their next sustainable thrift find.

WHERE

Midpoint Eatery
&
Bo Diddley Plaza

WHEN

January 21, 2024
February 3, 2-24

MORE INFO

Instagram:
[@thefloridavintagemarket](https://www.instagram.com/thefloridavintagemarket)

Local Events

recurring

Alachua County Farmers' Market

Date: Saturdays

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

Hours: Opens: 8:00 AM

Haile Village Farmers' Market

Date: Recurring Saturdays

Location: 5213 SW 91st Terr,
Gainesville, FL, 32608

Hours: 8:00 AM- Noon

upcoming

Green Greeks x KACB cleanup

Sunday February 4th, 2024
11 am

Meet near frat row

**Alachua Conservation Trust Volunteer
Workday at Tusawilla**

Saturday, February 10th, 2024

@Tusawilla Preserve

Hours: 9:00am-12:00pm

Sustainability Festival

Saturday, April 20th, 2024

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

Hours: 9:30am -1pm

GLOCAL IN GAINESVILLE

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more info LOCAL ORGS

Visit
<https://gatorsvolunteer.ufl.edu/for-volunteers/volunteer-with-environment/>
for more information.

GRACE Marketplace



GRACE Marketplace has a simple mission to end homelessness. Within this mission they work with the local community to help bring shelter and other resources to those in need.

They have various programs in place that foster sustainability. For example, they have the GRACE boutique, where they accept second-hand clothing and shoes to then offer to those in need at their shelters. Another example is through the GRACE Grows Garden, where they are able to cultivate food for those struggling with food insecurity, in a more sustainable way.

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.

The American Association of Geographers

Remote

The AAG is looking for an intern to work on the Advocacy and Programming Teams to do research on gerrymandering, place names, and careers.

volunteer

Earth Day Organization

www.earthday.org/

We are Neutral

www.weareneutral.com/

Eco Clean Marine

mycleaneco.com

Project Sunshine

projectsunshine.org

WHEN

Monday - Friday
11am - 7pm

WHERE

3055 NE 28th Drive
Gainesville, FL 32609

MORE INFO

Phone Number:
352-792-0800

Email:

Saturday & Sunday
10am - 6pm

hello@gracemarketplace.org

GATORS TRAVEL

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

#UNLITTER Costa Rica Spring Break Trip



#UNLITTER is a national organization that promotes sustainable practices through waste reduction and less plastic use.

Every year for Spring Break (March 10th-16th) they take a group over to Costa Rica through Dolphin Quest to experience the nature and culture of the beautiful country. The trip consists of boat trips, hikes, waterfalls, local food, surfing and more!

There are still spots available and the trip cost is \$650 (not including travel to Costa Rica). Check out the website below for more information.

MORE INFO

<https://www.unlitter.org/costarica>

Vacation Opportunities

day trip

St. Augustine

Enjoy local foods, shops, and historic landmarks at this beautiful Florida beach town!

Crystal River

A beautiful area with springs to float or paddle down with the chance to see a manatee!

Devil's Millhopper

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

night trip

Rosemary Beach

Amazing beaches in a quaint town with local foods to try, especially delicious seafood when in season!

Cocoa Beach

Cocoa Beach has a unique surfing and beach community that attracts visitors from all over the country. Take a trip over and book a surfing lesson to experience what the beach has to offer.

Key Largo

Visit amazing views in the Florida Keys, such as John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, a protected area to visit via snorkeling, glass bottom kayak, banana boat, or by swimming.

When visiting these areas make sure to abide by local flora and fauna regulations to not damage the ecosystems!

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.

Gator Scuba Club



Gator Scuba Club is a student-led organization that focuses on fostering a community of passionate divers and nature enthusiasts. They explore the underwater world, promote environmental awareness and conservation, and cultivate a sense of camaraderie amongst those who love scuba diving.

Gator Scuba Club organizes dive trips, educational initiatives, and community engagement. They encourage their members to create an inclusive space to develop diving skills and an appreciation for the preservation of natural spaces.

WHERE

Meeting location:
Turlington L005

WHEN

GBM meetings:
Every other
Wednesday at 7pm

MORE INFO

instagram:
[@gator.scuba.club](https://www.instagram.com/gator.scuba.club)

LinkedIn Alumni Network



Gator Sustainability Studies Alumni Network

Listed group

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.

WHERE

Online Platform:
LinkedIn

Contact

Cameron Delgado
919-360-2550

MORE INFO

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12501462/>

GATORS GOING GREEN

Professor Spotlight Hal Knowles

Hal Knowles is a Full-time Lecturer in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning and a Change Agent for the Program in Sustainability and the Built Environment within the University of Florida's College of Design, Construction, and Planning.



Can you expand on why you think design, construction, and planning play such a critical role in sustainability and the ways in which they are intertwined?

The way that I have come to know sustainability is predominately through this lens of human interaction in the world around us, which often takes the form of our manufactured capital- which is the built environment. That began loosely 10,000 years ago, when human started shifting from hunter-gatherers to more agrarian societies. Human then started altering the ecosystems we were embedded in. We started altering these for our own benefit and own adaptive capacity, and then all the success and progress of that was the foundation for the acceleration of impact from the past 200 years. We then went full settlement and infrastructure- which is in some ways a beautiful and empowering aspect of humanity, but they are a double-edged sword which we are just now starting to come to grips with. It's hard to imagine

thinking about sustainability without thinking about design, construction, planning in the built environment because those are predominant pathways in the program I teach.

You previously worked as a Project Engineer for a contracting company. What made you want to begin working in academia?

I have always enjoyed knowledge for knowledge's sake and understanding the world around me. I originally started having an interest in the DCP world as a kid where I was usually out in nature with my father hunting and fishing most weekends. Those amazing memories and experiences made me appreciate food systems, and the importance of the quality of habitats and livelihoods of the animal. That side of me along with two others that are critical to who I am today were being nurtured. Another one of those being I grew up in the outskirts of Orlando, which was expanding fast with rapid urbanization. So, the places I used to go play with friends were going away due to urban development, which

GATORS GOING GREEN

Professor Hal
Knowles
(cont.)

made me interested in seeing if I could be a part of that world while still honoring this natural world. The third dimension comes from growing up with older sisters and my mom, who exposed me to stereotypical feminine things such as dance. My whole family loves the arts, which also made me a whole and complete person, which I could bring into my undergraduate degree at Rinker. In the mid 90s, I became interested in sustainability, but it was a new concept. Dr. Charles Kibber took me under his wing and allowed me to take a graduate level class on international sustainable development- and it changed my world. I then graduated and got a great job and was fortunate because I loved many aspects of construction management through the project engineer lens. I also felt a bit overwhelmed by some aspects of the job, like the management side, is not easy. I realized I was most passionate about the concepts and education. I decided to leave after a few years and take on a new path. I was debating the Peace Corps or going back to grad school. I came back to UF and took the path to natural science and did my masters and doctoral work in the School of Natural Resources and Environment in Interdisciplinary Ecology. I love those types of generalist degrees because students can find

their own niche and still have a common bond across academia. Then my first full time role at UF was in the Program for Resource Efficient Communities, which is a part of Cooperative Extension. Once I got my PhD, I knew I wanted to be in academia.

If you had to choose just 1 class to teach at UF, which one would it be?

That's a tough one! There are so many different things I like about the different classes I teach. I'm going to say currently, I feel I would teach my DCP4930, it's Community Resilience Assessment Planning and Action in The Game of Life. It's a 3-credit class, but I would love to convert it to a 6-credit studio practicum class. In this class, students learn the theory, application, and principles of social ecological systems resilience. They also learn the theory and practice of game development and design. So, were playing tabletop strategy games and learning about how these games are developed. They look like they're fun, but they are serious work and teaching us important skills. At the end of the class, students team up and work together to create a tabletop strategy game and play each other's to demonstrate what they have learned about resilience and the gamification of change, while also having fun.

GATORS GOING GREEN

Professor Hal
Knowles
(cont.)

As a change agent, you aid in promoting the design and construction of green cities. Can you tell us more about the work you do with technology to help reach your goals?

When it comes to technology, it is a critical aspect when it comes to sustainability. I have this concept that I share with my students- I think that the future is going to be high tech square. What I mean by that is that conventional technology such as automation machines, industrialization, machine learning, artificial intelligence- we sometimes take for granted. The other high tech is T.E.K. which is traditional ecological knowledge, where I feel are all these things that humans have known for millennia and passed down in our cultural traditions in the wisdom we share, prior to written history. There's so much wisdom bubbling under the surface of these technologies, but we need this. For example, we need traditional ecological knowledge. In design, construction and planning industries there's something called VDC- virtual design and construction- where they are digitizing everything. They help you manage the complexity of the order of putting things together. It puts three dimensions together- temporal, financial, and sustainability, which is exciting to see the future of

these technologies.

What advice do you have for Sustainability Studies students in general, specifically for those interested in entering the design, construction, and planning space?

My general advice to students is to be authentic and true to yourself, whatever it is that keeps you going and made you want to change the world for the better and be in sustainability, honor that. One of the things I tell my students is that these are generalist degrees which is exciting because you all have amazing skill sets in problem solving and systems thinkers. These students need to learn to be great communicators and self-advocates. That is extremely important in the job search, because employers might not understand these majors, so students need to learn how to sell the generalist part. Being willing to work anywhere makes the job search easier, but it is important to take where you live into account and prioritize what you want in a community. The last part I would say, is to look at all the minors and certificates UF offers.

GATORS GOING GREEN

Alumni Spotlight

Casey Foran



Casey Foran is an Analyst on the Sustainability, Policy, & Advisory team at ClimeCo, where she helps clients and projects address environmental, social, and governance issues and opportunities. She graduated from the University of Florida in 2023 with a Bachelor of Arts in Sustainability Studies and minors in Urban & Regional Planning and Sustainability & the Built Environment.

How did you decide to get into Sustainability during your time at UF? What made you choose the major in the first place?

I decided to get into sustainability at UF because I have always had a passion for the environment. I spent a lot of time growing up in the outdoors and always knew I wanted to do something related to climate change. From a young age, finding out climate change was a thing, I knew I wanted to help mitigate that. There are other options at UF besides sustainability studies that give you are career centered around that like environmental sciences or engineering. However, I felt like sustainability studies gave a more well-rounded view of the world of sustainability and ESG compared to some other more focused majors.

You worked as an ESG consulting intern for a little over a year and a half. What type of work did you do that has helped you know as a post-grad?

The type of work that has helped me the most post-grad is mainly carbon accounting and greenhouse gas calculations. Learning how to understand those kinds of things is important for the field of sustainability consulting, and for a lot of consulting firms. That's like the bread and butter of what they do. Even if you don't know how to do these calculations, it is important to understand how they work, like EPA conversion factors. I think the biggest takeaway from my internship was learning how to work in a corporate setting. The internship gave me the responsibility that comes with having a full-time job and being able to preview that. Also, my internship was mostly remote, and my current job is remote, so it made the transition to post grad pretty easy.

What advice would you give to Sustainability Studies students struggling to find an internship as an undergraduate student?

GATORS GOING GREEN

Casey Foran
(cont.)

I would say look in places where you might not expect there to be sustainability jobs. My internship was with an engineering firm, and it was a big company, and a lot of big companies have in house sustainability teams. Typically, people are looking at places like Alachua Conservation Trust, or more natural science focused things, but right now the most opportunity is in the business and consulting side of sustainability. There are financial companies that have ESG analysts, so there's something for everyone. I don't think students should close themselves off to just environmental science related things just because that is everybody's first thought.

As an analyst for ClimeCo, what is the most rewarding part of your job? Can you also discuss a bit about your role and the different aspects of your career?

The most rewarding part of my job is being at a place where everybody has really shared values, and we all have one mission. ClimeCo is a pretty small company, but we have a few different teams. The team I sit on is the Sustainability Policy and Advisory

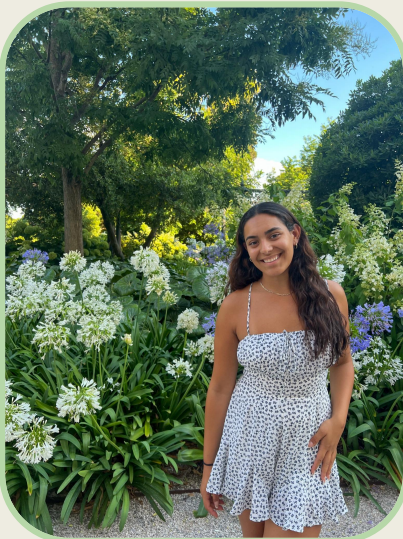
team, which we call the SPA team. So, this team is on the consulting side of the business, but we have other teams that are more science focused and more focused on the voluntary carbon market, which is where ClimeCo was founded in. Even though we have completely different roles as consultants in the company, there is this shared mission- One ClimeCo. This mission is to work across the business units, which is cool because it allows me to see the different kinds of work happening in the sustainability space. I do a lot of greenhouse gas accounting and ESG strategy reporting. These reporting frameworks give corporations a score on how they are doing with sustainability, so they come to us and ask us to help them fill the reporting out. The other main thing I do is business development.

If you had to pick an all time dream job, what would that be, and what would the type of work you do look like?

My all-time dream job would be a professional soccer player, that's what I wanted to do when I was little. So, if I wasn't working in business consulting, I would probably try and find a way to be an athlete.

BEHIND THE NEWSLETTER

Cameron Delgado **EDITOR**



Cameron Delgado is a third 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 Assistant Vice President of Public Relations, and the Events Director for her sorority- Kappa Alpha Theta. She is also involved in undergraduate research surrounding environmental education. This spring, she hopes to become certified in open water scuba diving, as well as attain an ACE certification to teach group fitness classes such as cycling!

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.



Photo of Rosemary Beach, FL

Contact

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