



SUSTAINABILITY STUDIES

NEWSLETTER



IN THIS ISSUE

1. GLOCAL IN GAINESVILLE

1. SHOP..... p. 2
2. EAT..... p. 2
3. VISIT..... p. 3
4. LOCAL EVENTS..... p. 3
5. LOCAL ORGANIZATION.....p. 4
6. LOCAL CAREER OPPORTUNITIES..... p. 4

2. GATORS VACATION

1. TRAVEL..... p. 5

3. GATORS GO GREEN

1. CAMPUS EVENT..... p. 6
2. STUDENT ORGANIZATION..... p. 6
3. PROFESSOR..... p. 7
4. ALUMNI..... p. 10

4. BEHIND THE NEWSLETTER

1. EDITOR..... p. 13
2. DESIGNER..... p. 13
3. DIRECTOR..... p. 13

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 resources and opportunities in and around the Gainesville community.

1 GLOBAL 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

/'glōk(ə)l/
adjective

Considerate of local and global impacts, essential to sustainability

1.1 Outreach



Outreach Thrift Store is one of Gainesville’s best-kept secrets. Offering high-quality, affordable clothing options, Outreach provides options for people throughout the community. The store also offers a variety of household goods and essentials.

Outreach Thrift Store is essentially a coalition of both community agencies and local churches. They collect items that are sold at an affordable price for members of the community. Outreach has been a staple in the Gainesville community for more the 25 years, and is a resource for everyone in the community to utilize.

WHERE

2430 NW 6th Street,
Gainesville, FL, 32609

WHEN

Monday – Saturday,
9:30 AM – 6:00 PM
Sunday,
1:00 PM– 5:00 PM

MORE INFO

Phone Number:
(352) 375-3200

1.2 The Top



The Top is a local staple, located in the historic and exciting downtown area of Gainesville. While the restaurant hosts the more traditional meat and seafood options, The Top also provides a wide variety of vegan and vegetarian options for everyone to enjoy.

From the Buffalo Tempeh to the Kimchi Cauliflower, the restaurant hosts inclusive options that are both delicious and environmentally friendly. A kids menu is also available, making The Top a place that everyone in the family can enjoy. Delicious, late-night food options are also available, so feel free to stop by at the later hours of the night for a limited menu.

WHERE

30 N Main St,
Gainesville, FL 32601

WHEN

Tuesday – Sunday,
5:00 PM – 2:00 AM

MORE INFO

Website:
www.thetophub.com/the-top-1

1 GLOBAL IN GAINESVILLE

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1.3 Ginnie Springs



At a steady 72 degrees, Ginnie Springs gives visitors a place to tube, paddleboard, canoe, and kayak all year round. Camping by the river, whether by tent or RV, is also a great option for all patrons 18+. The site is known for its exceptionally clear-water, unique diving experience (known to have “visibility forever!”), and unique location. Ginnie Springs is a destination for the entire family to enjoy.

A simple swim and picnic are also common activities among visitors. While the seasonal rate is \$30 per adult for overnight stays, daily admission is \$20 for adults and \$5 for children.

WHERE	WHEN	MORE INFO
7300 Ginnie Springs Road, High Springs, FL 32643	Monday - Thursday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Friday & Saturday, 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM Sunday, 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM	Website: www.ginnespringsoutdoors.com/



1.4 Local Events

upcoming

Date: May 27th

Gainesville/Alachua County Climate Summit

Location: United Church of Gainesville

1624 NW 5th Ave, Gainesville, FL

Hours: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Date: June 10th

Beekeeping: Honey Extraction and Hive Management

Location: UF/IFAS Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory 1881 Natural Area Drive Gainesville, FL 32611

Hours: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Date: July 12th

Living Shoreline Permitting Workshop

Location: McCarty Hall D, 1604 MCCARTY DR, Gainesville, United States

Hours: 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

*Register for this event

Date June 13th

Springs Academy Lecture #6 – Springs Advocacy

Location: 99 NW 1st Ave

High Springs, FL 32643

Hours: 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Date: Recurring (Saturdays)

Alachua County Farmers' Market

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

Hours: Opens: 8:00 AM

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1.5 Sea Turtle Conservancy



The Sea Turtle Conservancy, one of Gainesville's premier environmental organizations, is one of the most accomplished sea turtle organizations in the world. Founded in 1959 by Mr. Joshua B. Powers, the organization's conservation efforts have been monumental in saving the Caribbean Green Sea Turtle from extinction. The organization has also strived to raise awareness of the importance of sea turtle conservation globally.

Beginning their work in Costa Rica, the organization has expanded their efforts throughout Central America, and more recently, into the Caribbean.

WHERE

Contact

MORE INFO

4581 NW 6th St, Suite A Gainesville, FL 32609	Phone: 352-373-6441 Email: stc@conserveturtles.org	Website: www.conserveturtles.org/
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1.6 Career Opportunities

work

The Repurpose Project

Gainesville, FL

Accepting resumes. Looking for people who are passionate about the organization's mission. You can apply through their Instagram, Linktree, and website.

intern

UF Bike Program

UF Office of Sustainability

Accepting Resumes. Involve handling operations of the Office's existing Departmental Bike Share Program and the Gator Gears student bicycle rental program.

Cinema Verde

Gainesville, Florida

Their mission is to provide environmental education to the public through film, arts, workshops, events, tours, and any other forum or media.

volunteer

Earth Day Organization

www.earthday.org/

Keep Alachua County Beautiful

www.kacb.org/

We are Neutral

www.weareneutral.com/

2 GATORS VACATION



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

2.1 Historic St. Augustine



St. Augustine, the oldest occupied town in the United States, is a quick 1.5-hour drive from Gainesville. The city offers a unique downtown experience that caters to lovers of both touristy and historical areas. A walk down St. George Street offers both historical tours and newly opened restaurants. The infamous St. Augustine Fort (the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument), is also located in the historical district.

As St. Augustine is one of the oldest cities in the US, it is also one of the most haunted. Offering a diverse selection of haunted tours, the city comes alive in both the day and night.

WHERE

1 Cordova Street
St. Augustine, FL 32084

WHEN

Parking garage hours:
24 hours

MORE INFO

Website:
www.floridashistoriccoast.com/visitor-info/parking/



2.2 Vacation Opportunities

day trip

Rainbow River

10830 SW 180th Ave Rd, Dunnellon, FL 34432
www.visitrainbowsprings.com/hours-and-fees/

Weeki Wachee

6131 Commercial Way, Weeki Wachee, Florida
www.weekiwachee.com/

Three Sisters Springs

601 Three Sisters Springs Trail, Crystal River, FL 34429
www.threesistersspringsvisitor.org/sisterslchetuckneeSprings

night trip

Florida Keys

Take a trip down to the Florida Keys and explore what the outdoors have to offer, with opportunities to boat, fish, kayak, and experience some unique wildlife.

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.

Clearwater Beach

A hometown favorite of mine, Clearwater Beach has both beautiful beaches and unique restaurants that attract visitors from all over the country! Pier 60 is a top attraction at this beach, so be sure to explore the surrounding areas and spend some time outdoors!

3 GATORS GO GREEN

A closer look at how UF students, clubs, alumni, and faculty all contribute to a more sustainable future. This section includes exclusive interviews and ways to get involved on campus!

more info
STUDENT CLUBS

visit orgs.studentinvolvement.ufl.edu

- > Log in
- > Organization
- > Find an organization.

3.1 2023 World Sea Turtle Day Pop Up Open House at UF's Sea Turtle Hospital



Celebrating World Sea Turtle Day, the Sea Turtle Hospital Team at UF's Whitney Lab throws an open house to commemorate the current sea turtle 'patients.'

In the past, the team has offered a tour of the Sea Turtle Hospital and a meet-up with the current green-shelled patients. The hospitals' scientists have also been available to answer any turtle-based questions, and the gift shop is available to purchase trinkets to remember the special day. More information about this year's event should be available on the website and the Facebook page, two places where their cute patients are routinely posted.

WHERE

9505 N.Oceanshore Blvd, St Augustine, FL 32080

WHEN

June 16th, 2023

MORE INFO

Website: www.whitney.ufl.edu/conservation--sea-turtle-hospital/

3.2 Alpha Zeta



Founded at Ohio State University in 1897, Alpha Zeta is a professional and honorary society for both students and industry professionals within the agricultural field. Alpha Zeta is the oldest collegiate society in the agricultural field, with more the 115,000 alumni and more than 3,000 students.

The Florida Chapter of the Society is the largest in the nation, involved in opportunities throughout campus life. Alpha Zeta invites the top 40% of students in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences to join the society, taking pride in high levels of scholarship and leadership amongst their members.

WHERE

201 Criser Hall PO Box 114000 Gainesville, FL 32611

Contact

Kassandra Camejo: kassandra.camejo@ufl.edu

MORE INFO

Website: www.cals.ufl.edu/getinvolved/alphazeta/

3 GATORS GO GREEN



3.3 Professor Interview

Bron Taylor



Bron Taylor is a core faculty member in UF's Graduate Program in Religion and Nature. Further, he is a Fellow of the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society in Munich, Germany. Dr. Taylor received his Ph.D. in Social Ethics from the University of Southern California in 1988.

Much of your research focuses on the emotional and spiritual nature of different environmental movements. Your academic study, *Dark Green Religion: Nature Spirituality and the Planetary Future (2010)*, touches on this. What led you into exploring the religious nature of environmentalism?

I got interested in the role of religion in both hindering and sometimes promoting social causes such as civil rights and anti-authoritarian movements in South Africa and Latin America. And so I knew that sometimes religion plays a positive role in supporting human rights and social justice. I also noticed that these movements didn't really pay much attention to nature, even the ones that were inspired by progressive forms of Christianity and Judaism. So noting this absence, in the 80s I began to really read some things that were suggesting that the problem was with religion itself. That religion tends to hinder environmental understanding and behaviors. They have values that involve an effort to rescue people from the world or from the sufferings of the world through meritorious behaviors and rebirth. In their own ways, the world's predominant religions were deeply anthropocentric, where they were making the connection between human well-being and the health of environmental systems. But often they were distracted by long-standing religious priorities. Do the rituals so you end up with the right relationships with god or the gods so everything turns out ok.

So starting in the mid-80s, I began to notice that there were movements that were very assertive in trying to protect environmental systems. These were the radical environmental movements, and as I began to look at these movements, involving people who were committing civil disobedience to prevent deforestation or the hunting of endangered species and so forth, I began to realize that there was something really deeply spiritual for many of these activists.

I became interested in the spiritual dimensions of the merging environmental movements and began studying them in the late 80s. I had the privilege of hanging out with grassroots and environmental movements around the world, participating as a scholar. Looking at big UN Sustainable Events, I began to see the same patterns emerging among the most ardent greens on earth. They tended to share the same sorts of spiritual sentiments.

It was those observations that led to the argument in *Dark Green Religion*. There is a growing understanding of nature within religion and nature spiritualities that cohere with the evolutionary and ecological sciences.

What effect do you believe that the connection between environmental conservation and religion has had on different environmental movements around the world?

In *Dark Green Religion*, I focus more on the family resemblance approach to religion, looking at the traits and characteristics that are associated with religion to understand what people are thinking and feeling.

When we look at the global environmental movements, we find a lot of religion resembling phenomena. We find unifying practices and increasing creativity within these movements. We also see religion in certain ceremonial venues. We look at Earth Day for example, which can be seen as a Gaia reverencing ritual for many. We look at community and environmental festivals, and these are becoming increasingly ritualistic. These types of ritualistic practices and celebrations are breaking out spontaneously, in part because so many people are increasingly alarmed about the negative environmental trends that are increasingly obvious.

3 GATORS GO GREEN




Dr. Bron Taylor
(cont.)

Notably, you have previously taught at the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, where you later became its director. Can you tell the readers about this experience?

I founded the Environmental Studies program there, creating a more interdisciplinary context for the coursework. I had the opportunity to convince the Dean that we had an opportunity to create the school's first Environmental Studies program, offering minors and majors. He gave me the green light and some modest support. When I left we built it to 100 students in the major and now it's around 200 students in the major.

What led you into continuing your career in education at the University of Florida?

I was fortunate to get the offer to join a research-based university, giving me far more time for research and writing than I would've had at the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh. I wish we had a more general Environmental Studies program here, however, since it offers broader coursework than Environmental Science or Sustainability Studies.

Could you please elaborate on your experience as a professor at the University of Florida while lecturing on topics like environmental ethics and green religions?

Regarding my experience with students, working with them has been overwhelmingly positive. Students here are bright, relatively hard-working, and most of them actually care about things. Teaching can be really fun. It was hard to be moved so much online, COVID and post-COVID. Being online is not as bad as I thought it was gonna be, in fact, it can be quite good in some ways. But there's that magic that happens, face to face, being able to be playful and personable with people.

As an active educator, are there any actions that current students should be actively taking to fight climate and environmental injustice?

There's no single answer for people. I tell folks who are concerned about the problem that there are general areas that one should pay attention to.

The first is that we should do our best to reduce our own individual impact from our choices and lifestyles. But everyone who studies environmental studies knows how that doesn't go very far. We know that the systems themselves have to change. We are biocultural creatures in complex socio-ecological systems. If we don't change the systems then all of the virtuous individual acts that we make will not have much of a difference. So while it's good to be conscientious to reduce our individual impacts, we really need to focus on the systems.

So how do we do that? How does an individual do that? As an individual, we cannot do much, but we can look at what our talents are and what we like to study and figure out a life course or vocation that is focused on transforming these systems. If that's not in the cards for you, one can be actively engaged as a citizen. Help vote into office the right people, the people who are going to follow science and promote democracy.

Depending on what your talents are, maybe you should become the kind of person that guides political campaigns. Maybe you should be in science studying organisms to figure out the best ways to protect them. Maybe you become an environmental activist and you work for a national or regional environmental group. Maybe your talent is working well with the public and fundraising.

We know that tipping points exist and we know there are trends to reverse environmental degradation. We know there is much more consciousness about climate disruption now. There is a lot less climate denial now, really in the last three years. All one can do is know that while one individual contribution might not make a difference, lots of individual contributions have made a decisive difference in all sorts of ways. So do your part and pitch in based on your talents and passions and your hunches on where you could do the most good.

3 GATORS GO GREEN



Dr. Bron Taylor
(cont.)

Do you have any advice for current Sustainability Studies students who are starting the job search?

I would encourage folks that are undergrads to broaden their horizons. Get more critical thinking skills and learn how to analyze culture. What are you most drawn to, once you've kinda broadened your field of vision. What are you most drawn to that fits your curiosities, and your emotional and cognitive talents. Then do your homework on what kind of careers there are in this direction. Pick a career that is both good for your personal flourishing and is a way for you to make a contribution. Try to find communities of solidarity wherever you land- people who share your values, and who will support you. This is not an easy path for anyone because the more you know the more depressing the current accelerating trends can be, so it is really important to grow your support structures.

3 GATORS GO GREEN



3.4 Alumni Interview

Marcela Mulholland



Marcela Mulholland is an esteemed alumnus who graduated with her B.A. in Political Science and Sustainability Studies from the University of Florida in 2019. She is currently working at the Department of Energy's Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations.

What led you into pursuing a Sustainability Studies degree at the University of Florida?

When I first started at UF I was undecided, so I was actually exploring different majors in my first and second semesters. As part of that, I took the Intro to Sustainability course with Dr. Ron Chandler. He was great. I took that class and really liked it. That was around the same time that the 2016 presidential election was happening, and the way the national political conversation was changing really brought my attention to climate change.

I was born and raised in coastal South Florida and always grew up experiencing hurricanes, going to the Everglades, and seeing all of these things. Now, in retrospect, I know these things were caused by the the impacts of climate change but I didn't know what they were called. So really the 2016 election was a huge pivotal moment for me. I went to the academic advisor's office like 2 days after and changed my major to political science and sustainability studies. I felt a lot of clarity about what I wanted to dedicate my life to.

Following your graduation from the University of Florida, can you describe your career path and how you came to work at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)?

My first job out of college was with a think tank called Next100 (part of the Century Foundation) and I was a policy entrepreneur.

Essentially, I was a climate policy analyst. I was working on the Green New Deal, specifically the Green New Deal for public housing and just helping to shape and advocate for that bill. That was my first job, and it built on the experiences I had while I was in undergrad.

I took the Fall 2018 semester off to work on the Midterm election and that's when I first started learning about the Green New Deal, and more broadly, what it would actually take to tackle Climate Change.

From there, after my first job, I moved to Data For Progress, another think tank and polling firm where I worked for almost three years. First on the climate team and then as their political director. At Data For Progress, I worked across different issue areas but climate was my huge focus. For those three years, there was a push for Congress to pass better climate investments. That was my life for a while.

This year, in January 2023, I started working at the Department of Energy's Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations. This office was created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that passed a couple of years ago and received additional funding from the inflation reduction act.

I am so excited to be in this role and at the Department of Energy because I have spent so many years, and a lot of my professional life before this job, focusing on getting Congress to do something about climate change and to make federal investments. Now they've done it. Now it's really about implementation and putting those dollars to work in a way that actually brings to life the clean energy revolution that I've talked about and wanted for so long.

Implementation is both exciting and way more challenging. In some ways, it's easier to just talk about all the things that you want than to actually be like, wow, now we have the resources and have to do it. And that's what the people at DOE are focused on doing. That's the trajectory, and now I'm here.

3 GATORS GO GREEN



Marcela Mulholland
(cont.)

What kind of work do you do at the DOE as a Stakeholder Engagement Specialist in the Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations?

I work on the engagement office team and our focus is really like all of the engagement parts of OCED (Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations). I lead all engagement for our Long Duration Energy Storage work and our Direct Air Capture work. That looks like planning for the merit review process for the different funding applications that we have out. Making sure that there are community benefit plans that are thoughtful and robust is part of all of these project proposals. In the future, it will look like engaging with the project developers, the host communities, and any stakeholder involved with the project, making sure they feel included and empowered to shape a project.

Has your degree in Sustainability Studies from the University of Florida provided you with the tools and skills that you have used within your career?

Definitely! I think when I chose to major in Sustainability Studies it felt like a risk. I know my parents, like many others, wanted a STEM kid and my brother didn't do it and then I didn't do it. There's always a little part of you saying that your parents are right and you'll be unemployed forever. I think what turned out to be true in my life is that all you can really do is follow your intuition and your curiosity.

When I decided to major in Sustainability Studies, I knew that my intuition was saying that I've never felt strongly about something as humbling as the problem of climate change. I knew that even if I dedicated my life to solving this problem (climate change) it won't be solved and still I want to do that and I want to be part of this. In terms of my curiosity, it was really interesting to me. I liked the readings, the professors, and my classes. It felt risky at the time but at the end of the day, what is interesting to you and what you genuinely care about is what you're gonna be ambitious and do a good job on.

I have been able to make a career for myself based on that degree and I have no regrets at all about it. There's no question that my experiences at UF, both in the classroom and in the extracurriculars I did, shaped my career.

Have you experienced/noticed any job growth in the sustainability field?

It really is a field that is gonna grow so much in our lifetime. The government just invested billions of dollars in climate and green energy, and that is gonna stimulate a lot of economic activity in this area.

I think when I graduated it was at the end of the Trump administration, so people were really excited about what the next administration could look like when it came to the climate, so there was interest in jobs in that area. Even where I work now at the DOE, there is a Clean Energy Corps. The DOE is hiring a bunch of people to put the congressional investments that were authorized to work, and actually execute on the president's vision.

That's like thousands of new jobs, and this floats to the private sector as well. I think energy companies are having to think about sustainability and community engagement and environmental justice in a way that they never had before. While the policy is changing, that's also where the financial sector is moving. I definitely have experienced this growth in the 3 or 4 years since undergrad.

3 GATORS GO GREEN



Marcela Mulholland
(cont.)

Are there any specific skills or certifications you have acquired through either internships or your degree that have assisted you in this position or throughout your career?

I did the Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program at UF, and that was helpful since I got an internship the summer before my senior year at the NAACP in their environmental justice program. I did this OneWorld challenge. I am not sure it exists anymore, but it was a sustainability contest type of challenge. I think this is obvious but still worth saying- it really is about what you make of your time outside of the classroom. Interning at different places in Gainesville, or wherever, will really help make connections for you.

When I took the semester off of school back in 2018, that also felt risky since none of my friends were doing that. I wasn't sure if that was the right decision, but it definitely was. All of the people that I met at that time are directly who got me jobs after UF. It really helped to put what I was learning in the classroom into action in the real world. I would encourage people to be creative and to take risks when it comes to taking time off to work a job or an internship or some sort of program. It can really make your experience worth wild.

Do you have any advice for current Sustainability Studies students?

I am so excited for everyone who is studying Sustainability Studies at UF. It is such an exciting time to be dedicating your professional and academic pursuits in this direction. I feel kind of emotional thinking about when I was in your position. Just a couple of years ago when I was at UF, I felt nervous and passionate. I didn't know if I would be able to get a job in this field.

I know if I did, it would have to be me charting my own path, which is really scary but can also lead to the best opportunities. I would say that while you're joining a really exciting field that is growing and super important, you also have to make your own path and opportunities.

There are so many people who are excited about all the young graduates and professionals who are in this field wanting to support you. My advice is to follow your gut and be creative about the opportunities you make for yourself.

4 BEHIND THE NEWSLETTER



Katherine Monagas

EDITOR



Katherine Monagas is a senior Sustainability Studies student who is earning a minor in Economics and is a member of the Beyond 2050 program, along with being an active member of the International Scholars Program. Katie was born in Palm Harbor, Florida, where she graduated from East Lake High School in 2019. At the University of Florida, Katie is involved in student PIRG, Cinema Verde, the Global Business Society, and is currently involved in research that engages farmers in agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) through Virtual Extension Programs. Since a trip to Alaska when she was 17, Katie has understood the importance of both sustainability and conservation through activism and education. This summer, Katie is working at Jabil as their 2023 Corporate Sustainability Intern and will attend Columbia's Sustainable Management Program this upcoming Fall.

Ila Nodal

DESIGNER & PHOTOGRAPHER



Ila Nodal is a senior pursuing a B.A. in Education Sciences with a specialization in Educational Technology and Education Policy along with a B.A. in Sustainability Studies from the University of Florida. Ila's passion for both education and the environment, combined with her digital art experience, has enabled her to innovate and re-imagine the Sustainability Studies Newsletter. Ila is highly skilled in creating vibrant visual designs and is currently at zSpace, Inc as an associate product manager, working closely with graphic designers to improve user experience and interface. Ila enjoys biking and painting in her free time, being particularly skilled in pet portraits.

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.



This is an image of **Paynes Prairie**, taken by designer Ila Nodal. Visit @ilanodal on Instagram for more local photography or contact ilayalinodal@gmail.com

Contact

If you have suggestions or contributions for future newsletters, please email the incoming editor Cameron Delgado at camerondelgado@ufl.edu