



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 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

/ˈglōk(ə)l/
adjective

Considerate of local and
global impacts, essential
to sustainability



1.1 Flashbacks Recycled Fashions



The funky thrift store 'Flashbacks' is a sustainable vintage thrift store that features new products daily, both in-store and online. Offering unique and affordable pieces, Flashbacks is a family-owned operation that has been a staple in the Gainesville thrift scene since 1986.

Flashbacks Recycled Fashions also presents the opportunity for individual sellers and vendors to sell their goods for a fair price. They provide a drop-off location on their website. The store buys, sells, and consigns at a great price, and has become one of Gainesville's best-kept secrets.

WHERE

220 NW 8th Ave #10,
Gainesville, FL 32601

WHEN

Monday - Sunday,
12:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

MORE INFO

flashbacksrecycledf
ashions.com



1.2 Vegan Gator Food Truck



Vegan Gator is a plant-based food truck that has a passion for delicious vegan food options. The food truck is a fan favorite in the city, and many customers avidly follow the Instagram and Facebook pages to keep up with their daily locations.

Their Menu, consisting of everything from interesting burger options to loaded fries, provides options for everyone in your group. The food truck also features special flavors and dishes to spice up their menu. Making appearances at venues all around Gainesville, be sure to look them up next time you go out with friends!

WHERE

Home Location: 220
NW 8th Ave
Gainesville, FL 32601

WHEN

Varies. Generally,
12:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

MORE INFO

facebook.com/Vega
nGatorFoodTruck/

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1.3 La Chua Trail



La Chua Trail is located at the north end of Paynes Prairie Park. La Chua has an elevated boardwalk and beautiful water views, being a great hike to see much of Florida's local wildlife. The trail leads to the Alachua Sink, the center of Paynes Prairie.

La Chua is a 2.9-mile leisure trail that is popular for both bird-watching and hiking. The trail's elevated boardwalk allows you to explore both dry and wetland habitats, inviting the visitor to experience gators, wild horses, and around 300 species of birds that frequent the area.

WHERE

Main Access: 4801
Camp Ranch Road,
Gainesville, FL 32641

WHEN

Monday - Sunday,
8:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.

MORE INFO

[visitgainesville.com/
explore/attraction/p
aynes-prairie-la-ch
ua-trail/](http://visitgainesville.com/explore/attraction/paynes-prairie-la-chua-trail/)



1.4 Local Events

upcoming

March 13th - 20th

Sustainable Student Art Competition

Location: Santa Fe Gallery, 300 NW 83 St.
Gainesville, FL

Hours: 4:00 P.M.

March 18th - 19th

Spring Garden Festival

Location: Kanapaha Botanical Gardens

Hours: 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Entry Fee: \$10 for adults, \$5 for children

March 25th

2023 Conservation Stewards Awards

Location: Prairie Creek Lodge,
7204 SE County Road 234, Gainesville, FL 32641

Hours: 5:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

recurring

Weekly on Friday's

Walk & Talk at local Gainesville trails

Location: Varies

Hours: 3:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

alachuaconservationtrust.org/upcoming-events

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1.5 Keep Alachua County Beautiful



Keep Alachua County Beautiful, a Keep America Beautiful affiliate, believes that individuals and communities have an obligation to preserve their environments. The organization, with a mission to educate the community on the importance of the conservation of environmental resources, works to beautify the city of Gainesville.

The organization puts on events that aid in the beautification and conservation of the city. They also provide supplies for independent and outside organizations to contribute to this process. Some of their projects include the removal of litter and graffiti at our most beautiful and loved outdoor areas.

WHERE

211 SW 4th Avenue
Suite 1
Gainesville, FL 32601

WHEN

Monday and Thursday,
11:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

MORE INFO

kacb.org



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

We are Neutral

Gainesville, Florida

An environmental nonprofit that has a passion to offset companies' comprehensive carbon footprints.

2 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!

2.1 UF's Future of Food Forum 2023



The UF IFAS Global Food Systems Institute will be hosting the Future of Food Forum under the theme "transforming food systems with artificial intelligence." The Forum will explore how AI has the power to transform modern-day food systems, featuring speakers and panelists who are experts in the field.

Some of the questions that will be answered include how AI will assist in creating crisis-proof food systems, along with how AI can assist in the adaption of food systems into a future with an unstable climate. Topics such as AI's involvement in the preservation of biological diversity will also be discussed.

This event is open to students, community members, agricultural workers, policymakers, and academics.

WHERE

University of Florida,
Grand Ballroom, Reitz
Union, Gainesville FL

WHEN

Monday, March 20th
2023

MORE INFO

calendar.ufl.edu/event/25861-future-of-food-forum-2023

more info STUDENT CLUBS

visit orgs.studentinvolvement.ufl.edu

> Log in

> Organization

> Find an organization.



2.2 UNLITTER's UF Environmental Coalition



#UNLITTER

UNLITTER founded the UF Environmental Coalition (UF ECO) to bring both UF and Gainesville environmental and sustainability groups together. This coalition aims to provide students of all majors with a place where they can find their niche and interest in the environmental field.

Currently hosting 17 member organizations, the coalition aims to facilitate discussion between different environmental groups. It also aims to expand students' interests in sustainability, regardless of major or previous involvement within the community. The coalition aims to host a semesterly general body meeting, inviting both students and Alachua County residents to apply. Interested organizations are welcome to join the UF ECO by filling out an application on their website, and students are welcome to attend the open GBMs.

MORE INFO

unlitter.org/ufeco

2 GATORS GO GREEN



2.3 Professor Interview

Jack E. Davis



Jack E. Davis is a history professor at the University of Florida. He is also the Rothman Family chair in the Humanities, specializing in Sustainability Studies and Environmental History. Professor Davis is a Pulitzer Prize-winning author, with his book *The Gulf* having notable appearances in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, NPR, *Forbes*, and the *Tampa Bay Times*.

1. You are the author of the Pulitzer prize-winning book *The Gulf: The Making of an American Sea* (Liveright/W. W. Norton, 2017). What was the process of writing this book? Has this book had any unprecedented lasting impacts on either the sustainability or environmental field?

The process of writing the book involved archival and field research, the latter of which included interviewing people. It also required me to rethink my approach to the book. I wrote it for a general readership rather than strictly an academic one, so that required me to craft my prose to be more engaging and to tell interesting stories without sacrificing scholarly analysis. Of the latter, you have to sneak it in, so to speak, with the stories so you don't alienate the general reader.

It is hard to say whether the book has had a lasting impact. It was reviewed in the national media and is read widely across the country and in the sciences. For example, I have been the invited keynote speaker at a number of scientific conferences, although I am a historian and humanist. The book is also regularly used in an engineering course at UF dealing with ethics. I also know that the former speaker of the Florida House, Representative Chris Sprowls, is a fan of the book and believed it influenced some of his environmental policies. Since the book's release, I have given over 150 public talks on *The Gulf*, so I hope that the book and my talks are having some impact.

2. Another notable aspect of your career was when you were the director of the Environmental Studies Program at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. You were the first environmental historian at the University. Can you tell the readers a little about this experience?

I was the first environmental historian hired at Eckerd College (1994), UAB (University of Alabama at Birmingham) (1997), and UF (2003). Overseeing the program at UAB was exciting because many of our students went on to work with non-profit environmental organizations and study environmental law. That has been true over the years here at UF. I've written numerous letters of recommendation for students applying to law school to study environmental law and to graduate schools to continue their training in the environmental field.

3. How did this experience lead you into becoming a professor at the University of Florida?

I grew up in Florida, and when I was at UAB, I began writing a dual biography of Marjory Stoneman Douglas and the Everglades. Coming to UF put me in the right place to continue teaching and writing about the environment. I could do that anywhere, including in Alabama, which is environmentally diverse much like Florida.

But having an intimate connection to natural Florida makes my scholarship and teaching more personal. This was the experience with writing *The Gulf*. The book focuses on the five US Gulf states, not Florida alone, but having grown up on the Gulf of Mexico, both in the panhandle and in the Tampa Bay area, made writing the book a labor of love. Readers from around the country have told me that my love of a place comes through in the book.

2 GATORS GO GREEN



Jack E. Davis
(cont.)

4. Could you please elaborate on your experience as a professor at the University of Florida while lecturing on topics like environmental history and sustainability studies?

I really enjoy teaching the students in the Sustainability Studies program. They are among the most motivated and engaged students I teach. Their values are in synch with their studies, and many want to go out to change the world, to take better care of the environment, which is our home, than previous generations have.

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

As an educator, I believe it is my responsibility to remain objective in the classroom and to not proselytize, yet to be honest about the realities of our world and the human condition. If a student comes forward with the idea to do something for the environment or to take a stand against environmental justice, I am always happy to talk to them about possibilities.

We have numerous organizations locally and statewide that they can play a role in. I've had students who have gone to work with the Sunrise Movement and the Green New Deal, and I support them in following their passion into a professional position or apprenticeship.

6. What do you hope for future students taking Sustainability courses?

Recently, I was on leave for two years to write *The Bald Eagle*, so I'm hoping with the History of Sustainability course in the spring, and with Covid all but behind us, there will be some energized students in the classroom who are eager to continue their education in the field after graduation.

2 GATORS GO GREEN



2.4 Alumni Interview

Brooklynn Wilhelm



Brooklynn Wilhelm is currently a sustainability analyst at Fanatics Inc. Brooklynn graduated from UF with her B.A. in Sustainability Studies in the Spring of 2019, and went on to pursue her graduate degree at UF's Information Systems and Operations Management (ISOM) program. While earning her Master's, Brooklynn specialized in supply chain management.

1. Could you start by telling the audience a little about yourself?

My name is Brooklynn! I am currently a Sustainability Data Analyst at Fanatics Inc., which is one of the main sports apparel and fan gear companies out there. It's been 8 months so far at my job which has been exciting. Prior to starting this job, I was in graduate school at the ISOM (Information Systems Operation Management) program at UF. I then worked at a company called EcoRebates while I was in graduate school, and I was a Program Data Analyst with them. Prior to that, I was in my undergrad and that's where I did my dual major in Economics and Sustainability Studies at UF.

2. Could you elaborate on your journey in choosing a Sustainability Studies degree at the University of Florida?

I honestly think that it's kind of unique. I was a dual enrollment student in High School, so I was coming into UF with my Associate's Degree. Before I came to UF, I was looking into the Sustainability Studies major and I was fairly interested. When I attended Preview, I went to the College of Liberal Arts and Science section, and I was really sold on the Sustainability Studies major. I learned how you can dual major with other liberal arts degrees, so that was pretty much the stepping-stones that got me into choosing Economics and Sustainability Studies.

CLAS is so expansive, and I know the liberal arts majors don't always love the language requirements, but the semesters of language have helped me so much in my career.

3. Following your graduation from the University of Florida, why did you choose to proceed into a graduate program?

It was a unique time going into the job market following graduation, as it was during COVID. We all had different challenges with that. At that point, I was debating if I wanted to start applying, looking for jobs, or if I wanted to consider graduate school. During that time, I was the president of the Sustainable Business group and one of my team members was a graduate student in the ISOM program. She introduced me to the ISOM program initially. She showed me the opportunities that she was seeing from a job perspective being in the program, and that was very attractive to me, given that it was a risky job market.

Another driver for me was that I had the bright futures scholarship which covers four years of college. Since I did my AA in high school, they covered a year of graduate school as well. That was a big motivation for me to attend graduate school at UF.

4. You earned your graduate degree at the University of Florida's Warrington College of Business, in the Information Systems and Operation Management Masters Program. What led you into choosing this program?

I was deciding between the Masters of Sustainable Development at UF and the ISOM program. Looking between the two degrees, the one thing that stood out to me for the ISOM program was the Supply Chain Management tract. I had a background in Economics in Sustainability Studies, and in 2016, I had the opportunity to go to the UN Youth Assembly for Sustainable Development. There were a few seminars focused on sustainability in production, and that was where I started to see opportunities in the corporate space. How sustainability can have more of a focus on supply chain management. That was the ultimate driver that had me choose the ISOM over Sustainable Development. The Sustainable Development Master's is also very cool so it was not an easy decision.

2 GATORS GO GREEN



Brooklynn Wilhelm
(cont.)

I also really enjoy the math and analysis that goes into economics. Leaning more on that when it came to my interests in data and data analytics was another driver that pushed me to the ISOM program.

5. Has earning your graduate degree made you a more competitive candidate regarding job searching, or has it opened you up to new opportunities?

I would say it has made me a more competitive candidate and also opened up new opportunities. The interest I was getting back from applications was stronger. It also put me in a position where I could say no to offers based on the fact that I didn't see myself fitting in with the company. Before graduate school, I was in a position where I would take the job if the salary worked for me. It really opened the options and the variety.

One other point I wanted to make was the negotiation. I was able to negotiate a much higher salary because of my master's degree and background, along with my experience as a program analyst when I was in the ISOM program. That was another really good benefit of going forward with graduate school. I was able to present to my boss my other options, inflation, and all the other factors to increase my pay.

6. Do you believe that the connections you have built at the University of Florida have assisted in the job search and interview process?

I would say the connections that I've built were invaluable. I was part of AIS (Association for Information Systems) while I was in graduate school, and there were webinars, networking sessions, and meetings to understand interview techniques and job search practices. I think it was invaluable to starting a career and having a good footing to feel successful and confident in navigating it all.

7. You are currently a Sustainability Data Analyst with Fanatics, Inc. Can you tell me a little about this position?

Essentially, I create tools to help with data collection, data management, and ultimately data analytics. In the sustainability team, I support the impact functions of the team. For example, our labor pillar looks at labor regulation compliance, ensuring FLA (Fair Labor Association) principles are up to standard. We conduct environmental assessments of all of the factories, analyzing that data. Also, the traceability work. That's the foundational work that's happening throughout industries to amp supply chains upstream.

We do this to understand the system all the way up to the raw material provider- how the companies can incorporate more strategic relationships to facilitate and have more impact when it comes to sustainability goals. Overall, it is an awesome career, and I love it every day.

8. Are there any specific skills or certifications you have acquired through either internships or your degrees that have assisted you in this position?

One of the basic, most foundational skills to know is Microsoft Power BI. It is unique and very easy to learn. I like that it works with everything Excel-based and Microsoft-based. Regardless of that, Power BI is exceptional. This is more in data analytics, but when it comes to going into a career, understanding the foundations of Excel is great. The LEAN Six Sigma Yellow Belt certification was a really great certification to get. It's all about looking at processes in systems and how you can work toward continuous improvement.

2 GATORS GO GREEN



Brooklynn Wilhelm
(cont.)

It's basically a very structured way of improving processes in an organization, and it's very data-driven. It's great to understand how change is happening within an organization, and as Sustainability students, there's a lot that focuses on change, so I think that would be an interesting type of certification for sustainability students.

9. Do you have any advice for current Sustainability Studies students?

My advice would be to stick with what you're interested in. I feel like sustainability is so interdisciplinary. It branches across so many industries, organizations, and initiatives. There are so many ways you can apply yourself in the sustainability field. Just focusing on that and not getting too distracted by what other people are doing in sustainability and comparing yourself to them is the best advice I can give.

There have been a lot of times in my career so far when people, including my parents, have doubted me. "What's sustainability? What are you doing?" But I've been saying, listen, I know what's going on and I know what my path is forward, but don't let those voices out there get to you. I would say that is one of the biggest things.

3 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. In her free time, Katie enjoys reading books, hiking nature trails and heading to the beach when she has a free weekend

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 Katie Monagas at kmonagas@ufl.edu