# ELON SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER

## FALL 2012 VOLUME 2 - ISSUE 1

## CONTENTS

STAFF PROFILE Merissa Lawson & Jennifer Smith.... 2

FACULTY PROFILE Steve Moore...... 4

SUSTAINABILITY Faculty Fellow...... 5

POWERLESS Results...... 6



#### CAMPUS RECYCLING PROGRAM ACCEPTS WIDE VARIETY OF ITEMS REBECCA WICKEL '13

What began in the 1980s as a student initiative has become a robust program at Elon. Today, the university's recycling program includes paper, newspaper, magazines, cardboard, plastic, glass, cans, batteries, printer cartridges and small electronic items.

Below is a summary of what can be recycled and where on campus:

- **Plastic, glass and cans** (aluminum/steel) go in green topped bins.
- **Paper (including newspaper and magazines)** goes in blue topped bins.
- **Cardboard** can be taken to designated containers behind the dining halls, Moseley Center and the Physical Plant building. It can also be broken down flat and put next to a paper recycling bin inside a building or next to an outdoor recycling container in a residential area.
- Household batteries may be recycled at Belk Library in the main stairwell, McEwen Communications room 105, Moseley Center near the mail room and the Center for the Arts by the elevator on the first floor.
- **Printer cartridges** may be recycled in or near residential area offices, Moseley Center near the mail room, the Office of Sustainability in Mooney 105 and the School of Law Library.
- Small electronic items, including cell phones, digital cameras, CDs, DVDs, cables and chargers can be taken to the main stairwell in Belk Library, room 105 in McEwen Communications and the Office of Sustainability.

The Office of Sustainability website has <u>more detailed</u> <u>information</u> about recycling on campus.

#### ELON SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER

#### Fall 2012

#### **STAFF PROFILE: MERISSA LAWSON & JENNIFER SMITH** SUSTAINABILITY LEADERS CREATE EDUCATED, EMPOWERED CAMPUS REBECCA WICKEL '13





Merissa Lawson

Jennifer Smith

To educate and promote sustainability on campus, the university has help from both faculty and staff. These Sustainability Leaders are volunteer resources for their respective departments, offering advice on environmental issues and initiatives.

Merissa Lawson, director of development research, has taken her personal interest in sustainability and used it to make minor improvements around Johnston Hall.

"Honestly, it's just something that I truly care about," she said. "I moved here last year from Vermont, which is a state really interested in the environment. My old office used to have composting at work, so I thought it would be interesting to see what I can do here."

Lawson has done a lot to teach her peers in University Advancement about the university's sustainability efforts and simple steps toward reducing the office's impact.

"There's so many easy things that you can do around the office that people just don't think about, so I thought it was a good opportunity to learn more about what we can do on campus."

Jennifer Smith, serials/document specialist, felt the same way. She was interested in helping Belk Library be a more sustainable workplace and has already found success in her role.

"I immediately got more recycling bins," she said. "We're keeping sustainability in mind whenever we make big decisions now."

Sustainability leaders are offered workshops and resources for making long-lasting, meaningful changes in their departments. This education process is incredibly valuable, Smith said.

"More than anything it makes me feel empowered about sustainability in my area," she said. "You feel like you're able to say more about the issue, you see things that need to be changed, you bring things up with your co-workers."

This type of dialogue is exactly what the program was designed to encourage. Though, conversation is only part of the education process.

"I try to primarily live by example," Lawson said. "Every time I leave my office I turn my lights off, and actually, much to my neighbor's dismay, I'll turn his lights off. Now that I've done it enough, he has started to do it on his own."

For the university's sustainability leaders, the key is to always be thinking about new ways to improve.

If you would like more information about the Sustainability Leaders program, email sustainability@elon.edu.

## Fall 2012

#### **STUDENT PROFILE: BILL WOLLMAN** Senior discovers passion for environmental research Rebecca Wickel '13

Senior Bill Wollman was looking for something else to do last summer. Thanks to associate professor of biology David Vandermast, he found it.



"I'm doing research with Dr. Vandermast on the effect that beaver activity has on invasive plant species," Wollman said. "The thought is, the more beaver activity the more invasive species occur."

Wollman, an environmental studies major, said he was

scrambling to find summer plans when Vandermast approached him with the research idea. He was immediately on board.

"I really want to work outside, that's how I got into this," he said.

Wollman said he's always been an outdoor person. His grandpa often took him fishing, and his interest in the environment grew from there.

This passion came in handy; Vandermast and Wollman logged nearly 30 hours this summer on the Haw River collecting data.

This semester, they are analyzing data collected in the summer months. The last-minute decision led to a rewarding experience, according to Wollman.

"I wasn't planning on doing it until last spring, but I'm really glad I did it," he said. "I'm realizing how beneficial these skills are."

Though the research is not finished, the implications of the study are already important to the environmental community. "These species come in and they out-compete the native species, so basically native plants that have historically been in this region can't survive," Wollman said. "It's an ecological problem."

Wollman plans to finish his research at the end of the fall semester. Upon graduation, he would like to work in environmental consulting.

#### **BE A LEADER IN SUSTAINABILITY**



PROVOST, DR. STEVEN HOUSE

- 1. Reduce, Reuse and Recycle in that order. Using less should come first but remember to recycle everything you can.
- 2. Carpool, walk or bike when you can. You will save gas and money and prevent vehicle exhaust emissions.
- 3. Use a reusable cloth or canvas bag at the grocery store. The benefits to our environment include less waste, less litter and resource conservation.
- 4. Use natural daylight whenever possible and forego electric lights.
- 5. Turn off the water when you brush your teeth. If you have a standard faucet and brush your teeth for 2 minutes twice a day, you will save over 8 gallons of water per day!

### ELON SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER

#### Fall 2012

#### FACULTY PROFILE: STEVE MOORE Steve Moore Brings AgroEcology, passion to University Rebecca Wickel '13



It's been more than 40 years, and environmental studies lecturer Steve Moore still believes in the movement that originally inspired him.

"Even then, you could see the writing on the wall," Moore said. "Seeing how sustainable the world was, how we needed

to change. It was college that solidified that, that was before environmental studies courses were even around."

Moore majored in biology with minors in physics and chemistry at Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania. During his studies, he discovered farming could be key.

"I realized early on that agriculture was a huge component of environmental issues, and I had a propensity for growing food," Moore said. "That continued and evolved; and after numerous developments in life, I brought it to the university to highlight sustainable food production."

Moore has been at Elon for just over a year, and he has already made sustainable agriculture education a priority. He teaches AgroEcology at the university as well as Introduction to Environmental Studies and Strategies for Environmental Inquiry. He comes to the classroom with a mission to engage students, to encourage them to take action and understand food sustainability.

"I know not everyone's going to be a farmer that goes to Elon," he said. "But there's a high probability everyone's going to be an eater. The choices we make will really determine the world we live in."

Moore has traveled to places like Kenya, South Africa and Russia to better understand agricultural culture across the world. Throughout his years of study, he has witnessed growth in the field. Having experienced this development, he can offer his students a unique perspective.

"There was no organic when my wife and I started our farm," he said. "Twenty years after we started our farm, organic standards came into being."

Although so much has changed in the AgroEcology field, there are some things that remain consistent.

"I still like getting dirty. I still like growing plants and being close to the ground, seeing things grow, seeing soil become healthy and productive," Moore said. "But most of all I love sharing that with people and seeing the potential to change the world, one plant at a time and one person at a time."

#### SAVE THE DATE

#### EARTH DAY SPEAKER Hunter Lovins

"The Business Case for Implementing Sustainability"

DATE: APRIL 22, 2013 TIME: 7:30PM Location: McKinnon Hall, Moseley Center

## Fall 2012

#### SUSTAINABILITY FACULTY FELLOW MICHELE KLECKNER STARTS FIRST YEAR AS SUSTAINABILITY FACULTY FELLOW Rebecca Wickel '13



This fall, senior lecturer Michele Kleckner began her first semester as Elon's Sustainability Faculty Fellow, working with faculty and staff to promote academic sustainability programs and infuse sustainability across the curriculum and research initiatives.

Kleckner, who has been with Elon's Computing Sciences department since 1999, is now trying to highlight and recognize established faculty development and research projects related to sustainability. She is also creating new initiatives to advance the role of sustainability in the academic experience.

For Kleckner, this position is a way to live out her personal interests while serving the university. "It's a personal interest," she said. "I try to leave the world a better place. I kind of live by that motto."

And she does. Kleckner is one of the faculty advisors of *Visions magazine*, a co-advisor of the Sustainable Living Learning Community, serves on the Environmental Advisory Council and teaches a sustainability unit in her Global Experience classes. She has also participated in the Sustainability Faculty Scholars Program.

Kleckner has her position divided into initiatives and goals. For her first year, these plans revolve around building awareness. "I'm assisting the Sustainability Faculty Scholars Program by overseeing the programming this year to try to build it back up," she said. "I also want to bring awareness to the STARS report; for campus to understand what the STARS Silver Rating means for the university and to understand that sustainability is one of Elon's missions."

Kleckner said she also sees herself as a faculty advocate, striving to bring sustainability into more classes. She's off to a good start, as her own courses often emphasize sustainability issues.

"In The Global Experience, my students always do a sustainability project and look at the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainability," she said. "They are assigned a country early on in the semester, and for that specific country they report on the sustainability efforts."

In her Senior Information Science Experience course, students are working on a project that will serve as a repository for student sustainability projects that have been implemented on Elon's campus. This will provide the community with a resource for understanding and evaluating student sustainability research, which in turn helps promote the issue on campus. It will also enable projects to be built upon leading to further progress. Kleckner's term as Sustainability Faculty Fellow is four years.

#### ELON SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER

## Fall 2012

## POWERLESS RESULTS FALL 2012 Competition yields impressive results Rebecca Wickel '13



DR. SMITH JACKSON WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE TOP REDUCING AREAS AND PRIZE DRAWING WINNERS

Elon University's eighth POWERless energy competition, which encourages students to conserve energy in residential buildings, ended October 9th. During the three-week competition, the overall amount of kilowatt hours saved compared to the baseline consumption was 35,544 kWh. The amount of energy conserved would power 30 North Carolina homes for a month based on average consumption.

Elon Sustainability Newsletter Volume 2 – Issue 1

*Contributing Authors:* Rebecca Wickel '13, Journalism

**Designer:** Christian Jones '13, Physics

*Office of Sustainability Staff:* Elaine Durr, LEED AP BD+C, Director of Sustainability The competition is divided into two divisions, based on size. In the area competition, the greatest energy reduction was achieved by:

Division II: East Area Academic Pavilions - 23.8% Division I: West Area - 16.6%

These area names were added to the custom-made oak POWERless trophy, which resides in Moseley Center.

The buildings with the top energy reduction in each Division were:

Division II: Trollinger House - 37.5% Division I: Virginia/West - 14.4% Each of these buildings received \$150 to use for a non-energy consuming program or improvement, and \$150 was donated to a nonprofit organization of the building residents' choice.

Together, the efforts of residents across campus helped the university avert 18 tons of carbon dioxide emissions.

POWERIess

Energy Competition For Student Housing



Office of Sustainability Mooney 105 2104 Campus Box | Elon, NC | 27244 <u>www.elon.edu/sustainability</u> Join us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ElonSustainability