

Report for the Trustees Meeting of May 11, 2022

Sustainability Council

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Sustainability Council

The Sustainability Council celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. Nationwide the month of April focuses on the environment with Earth Day on April 22. In collaboration with SAVE (Student Advocates for Valuing the Earth), the Sustainability Council has created a robust two weeks of programs from April 13 - 29 entitled *Our Earth 2022*. The full schedule is listed in the attached section from the Sustainability Council's newsletter, *The Peacock Planet*.

From lectures by eminent environmental scientists and the Academic Symposium showcasing student research to films, the Campus Green Out Day, a tree planting, and even a visit by a little lamb from a faculty member's New Jersey farm - *Our Earth 2022* sponsors programs that encompass issues of climate change and climate justice. Another example of the university's commitment to a healthy environment is the fact that the graduation gowns worn by seniors at Commencement are made from recycled plastic bottles. Coincidentally, Arbor Day and Saint Peter's University, both founded in 1872, are celebrating their sesquicentennial anniversaries this year. The Arbor Day Foundation is recognizing Saint Peter's commitment to planting trees by issuing a special letter of commendation on Arbor Day.

Cessation Task Force

Saint Peter's University, a smoke-free facility, hosted a table at the SPU Wellness Fair on Monday, March 14. A representative from the Hackensack Meridian Quit Center who is a member of the Cessation Task Force distributed materials about cessation and spoke with several members of the Saint Peter's community about our free programs that support those who wish to quit smoking in any of its forms.

Members of the Cessation Task Force will participate in the statewide "Eliminate Tobacco Use Summit" taking place virtually from April 20 - 21, 2022.

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Welcome to Peacock Nation!! We don't normally go outside the bounds in this newsletter but we can't resist: Congratulations are in order for the men's basketball team at Saint Peter's, which made it all the way to the Elite Eight in the NCAA championship. This was the first time in history that a 15-seed team made it to the Elite Eight, and the Sustainability Council wants to send congratulations to all the players, coaches and numerous supporters of the team. Go Peacocks!

April is Earth Month. The Sustainability Council, now in its 10th year, has lots planned. Read on!

The Sustainability Council is made up of members of the faculty and administration, but also students. We would love to welcome some new students into our active group. If interested, please contact Dr. Eileen Poiani at epoiani@saintpeters.edu.

OUR EARTH 2022

Green events rooted in the Sustainability Council's Sesquicentennial theme:

Climate Reality /Climate Inequity

Celebrate and appreciate OUR EARTH in 2022: Upcoming events

- *Wednesday, April 13 at 12 p.m.* Dr. Byron Winston, Environmental Scientist - "Combating Climate Change: from Algal Blooms to Biofuel Production."
Roy Irving Theatre
- *Tuesday, April 19 at 6 p.m.* Film screening with discussion of climate-related Issues – "The Lorax" by Dr. Seuss
Gannon Lecture Hall
- *Wednesday, April 20 at 12 p.m.* Dr. Sandra Passchier, Professor in the Department of Earth and Environmental Studies, Montclair State University - "Antarctic ice and climate: its deep connections within the Earth system."
Pope Lecture Hall

[*Because of unforeseen circumstances, the following lecture originally scheduled for April 20 is being postponed to the fall semester.* Dr. William Gutsch, Distinguished Professor of the College of Arts & Sciences – "Respond to the Cry of the Planet, a goal of Pope Francis' Seven Year Journey Towards Integral Ecology"]

- *Thursday, April 21 at 12 p.m.* 21st Healthy Baby Awareness Day & Smile Train (cleft palate surgery charity) Fundraiser – Poster presentations and sale of books and household items
Gannon 104 & 106
- *Thursday, April 21 at 5 p.m.* 70th Anniversary of the Mendel Lecture: Dr. Marie Trone - "Endangered Peruvian Amazon Pink River Dolphins"
Pope Lecture Hall. *Wear Pink Clothing!*
- *Friday, April 22 – Earth Day* Event to announce TREX Company, Inc. project to divert "stretchy plastic" from the landfill to create a 100% Recycled Plastic Bench for the Saint Peter's campus
- *Monday, April 25 at 12 p.m.* CAMPUS GREEN OUT DAY 2022 – Wear Green, buy a special t-shirt, and Planting Project. The Quad (West Campus)

3 - 6 p.m. Clothes Swap - McIntyre Conference Center A

- *Tuesday, April 26 at 6 p.m.* Film screening with discussion – "A Life on Our Planet" by Sir David Attenborough, broadcaster, biologist, nature historian, author
Gannon Lecture Hall
- *Wednesday, April 27 from 12 – 2 p.m.* 24th Annual Academic Symposium sponsored by TriBeta Honor Society, Biology Department, Offices of Provost and Dean McIntyre Conference Center
- *Thursday, April 28 from 11 am - 1 p.m.* Visit of a little lamp from the farm of Prof. Carolyn Gerdes, Adjunct Professor in the SPU Psychology Department.
Panepinto Plaza
- *Friday, April 29 at 12 p.m.* 150th Anniversary of the first Arbor Day – Tree Planting and Blessing by Father Andrew Downing, S.J., Vice President for Mission and Ministry. Afternoon service project with the Junkyard Dogs.
Guarini House



March crocuses at the New York Botanical Garden. *Photo by Dr. Laura Twersky, Professor of Biology.*



Your feedback, photos, event notices and story ideas are always welcome. Please email them to Peacock Planet editor Georgia Kral at gkral@saintpeters.edu

Saint Peter's University Sustainability Council
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