



Greetings, Peacocks! The semester is winding down—congratulations to each and every one of us! It took a year to get back, but we did it and the semester was a success.

While for many the holiday season is “the most wonderful time of year,” at the Sustainability Council we are mindful of the planet each and every day, and hope this year that you will consider gifting sustainably produced goods and products, and cutting back on the wrapping paper and plastic waste associated with holidays and parties. We can all make a difference, and when we each do something small, it amounts to something big! Keep reading for more sustainable holiday tips from our members.

If you're interested in joining the Sustainability Council, please contact Dr. Eileen Poiani epoiani@saintpeters.edu.

Future Events

- America East Sustainability Conference: the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education will hold its annual conference at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell on June 7-9, 2022.
- Earth Day: Friday, April 22, 2022
- Arbor Day: April 29, 20

How to be sustainable this holiday season

Compiled by Georgia Kral, Sustainability Council newsletter editor



Christmas trees are wonderful to have but if you're feeling wracked with guilt for killing a tree every year, just make sure you recycle it! (Photo credit: Flickr/[Camerabee](#))

Go green this season and enter the New Year knowing you did something for the planet. Here are sustainable tips from Sustainability Council members:

Dr. John Ruppert, Biology: "Buy experiences or give your time rather than goods. Take someone out to dinner or a coffee to share some time with them, go see a show together (they come at all price points). A sustainable lifestyle includes slowing down and in many ways is better for not only 'the world' but ourselves."

Dr. Laura Twersky, Biology: "See tips for hosting a holiday get-together sustainably at the [Natural Resources Defense Council.](#)"

Dr. Eileen Poiani, Chair of the Sustainability Council/ Mathematics: "Give Memberships to environmentally-conscious organizations such as Arbor Day Foundation, Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy and the Wildlife Conservation Society."

Georgia Kral, Communication & Media Culture/ Director of Student Media: "Look for ways to cut down on your use of plastic, paper and other materials. For example, wrap gifts in newspapers instead of buying new wrapping paper. If you attend a holiday party with single use plates and cups hold on to yours for the entirety of the event so you don't need to use more than one. Oh, and recycle your Christmas tree. Most townships in New Jersey offer tree pickup, and most of the time the trees are chipped and reused locally as mulch. Important: trees with tinsel, lights, ornaments and stands will most likely not be picked up."

Noelle Sprenkle, Junior: "Buy gifts from small/local businesses. Use timers to avoid outdoor lights being left on too long. Look into the brands you support this holiday season and choose to purchase from companies with more sustainable practices."

For more information on [sustainable and green products, check out this FAQ from the EPA.](#)

What We're Reading & Watching

Here are some media recommendations from Council Members:

- [A Look Back at Saint Peter's College](#), *Saint Peter's Tribune*
- [This Chemical is in Short Supply, and the Whole World Feels It](#), *The New York Times*
- [Murphy Wants All-Electric, Self-Driving Transit System in N.J.'s Capital City](#), *NJ.com*

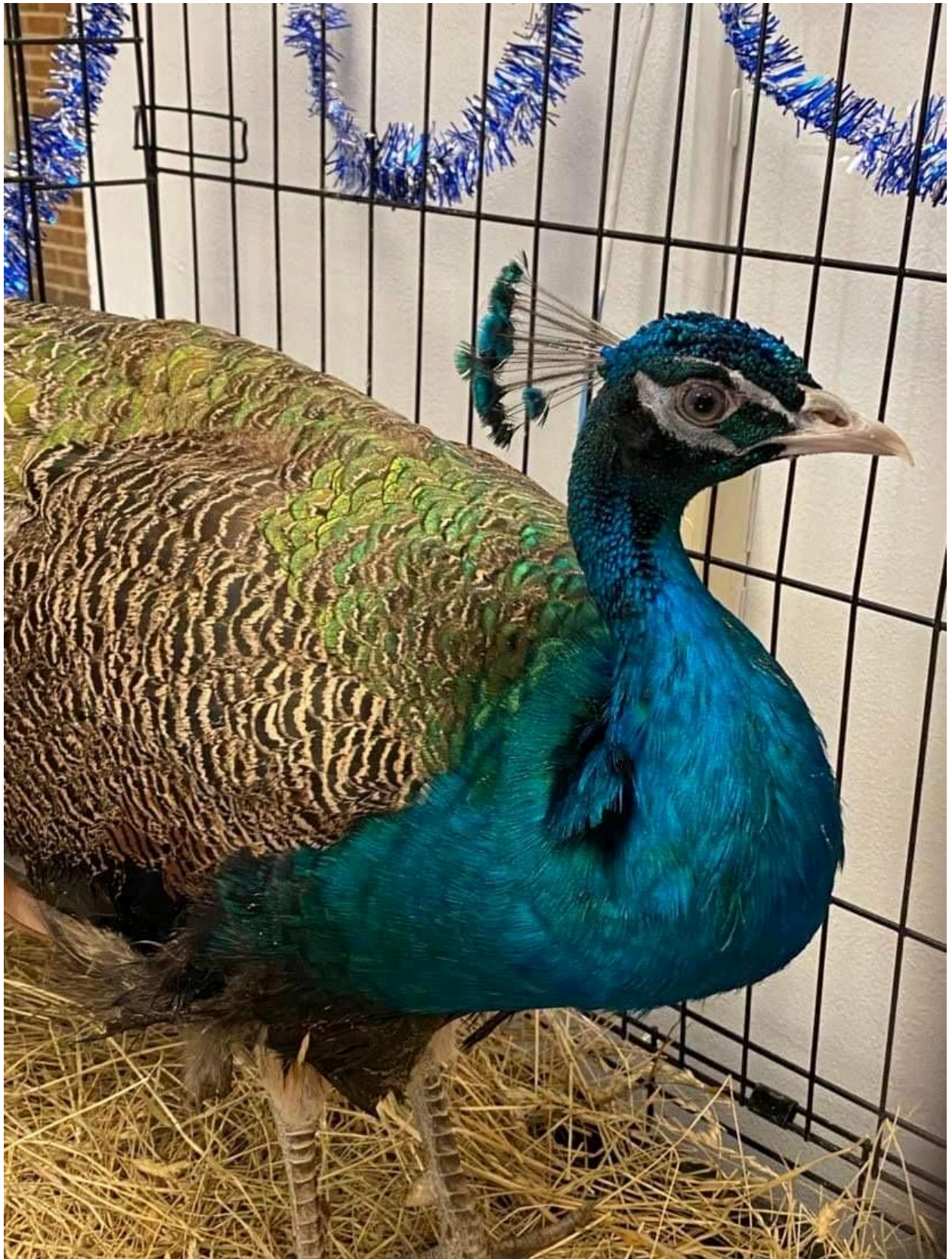


Sustainability Council member and Associate Professor of Biology Dr. Katherine Wydner captured this house finch having a Thanksgiving Day feast of red berries from the Hawthorn tree beside Gannon Hall.

Celebrating Peacock Day!
Peter Peacock visits Saint Peter's

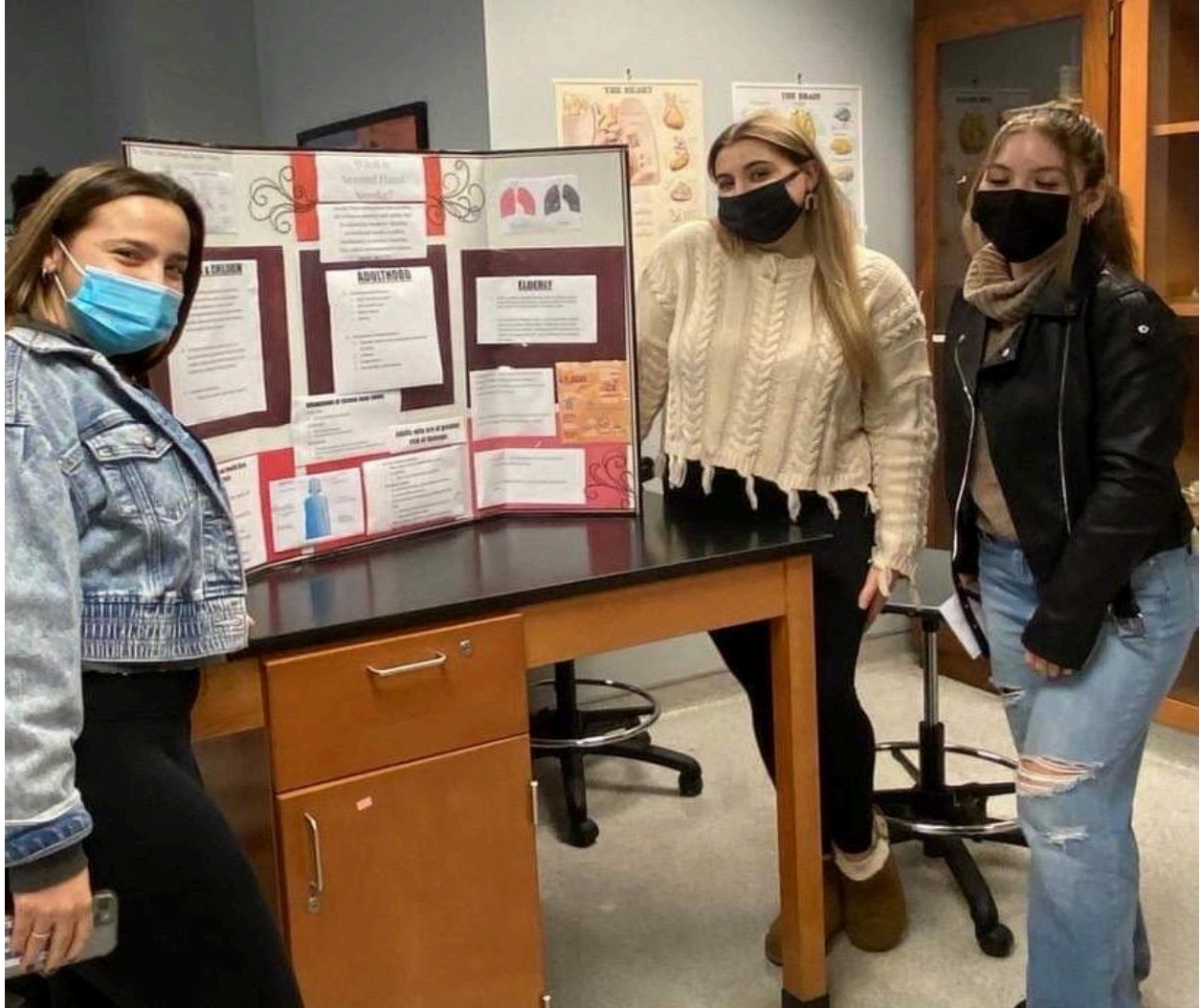


Pictured L-R: Dr. Alan Delozier (Executive Director of the NJ Catholic Historical Commission and former SPU Archivist), Ilona MacNamara (Librarian and Coordinator of Exhibits), Dr. Eileen Poiani (Chair of the Sustainability Council and Special Assistant to the President), Daisy DeCoster (Director of the Library), Dr. Virginia Bender (Special Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff), Prof. Carolyn Gerdes



On Monday, Dec. 6 the Saint Peter's community was graced with a special visitor: Peter Peacock! Prof. Carolyn Gerdes from the psychology department has a farm, and brought a peacock that lives there to campus in honor of 150 years of opportunity for generations and in conjunction with the library exhibit "Peacocks through the Ages."

Students present research for the Great American Smokeout



Saint Peter's University students Gianna Farulla, Giannamaria Guido and Margarita Cifuentes present a poster on the effects of secondary smoke at the Great American Smokeout event on campus in November.

A thought to leave you with...

"It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving."

-Mother Teresa

- *Our Vision: The Sustainability Council supports a broad, holistic vision of sustainability, framing our work in pluralism and integrating the right of well-being today to that of future generations.*
- *Our Mission: The Sustainability Council, composed of a broad representation from the university community, initiates and implements institutional, academic and community programs that identify, inspire and foster sustainable practices and behaviors.*

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

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