



Greetings, Peacocks! The evenings are getting colder, we set our clocks back for Daylight Saving Time this past weekend and Thanksgiving approaches. As we get closer to the holiday season and the end of the Fall semester, we look forward to 2022, our [Sesquicentennial](#).

This month let's remember to be thankful for all that Mother Nature gives us: air to breath, water to drink, soil in which to grow food. We must protect our natural resources!

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



Fall foliage seen behind the houses on Glenwood Avenue. *Photo by Nabihah Nadir.*

November Events: Save the Date

- Monday, Nov. 15: 12 p.m., McIntyre Conference Center: **Universe of the Mind**

Join the Sustainability Council for this special 150th anniversary event! Distinguished Professor of the College of Arts & Sciences, Dr. William A. Gutsch, Jr., will discuss how the perception of our world has changed over the past 150 years. Gutsch, a graduate of the SPU class of 1967, is an internationally known astronomer and producer, and his thought-provoking talk will take guests on an entertaining journey through time. **Pizza will be served.**

- Thursday, Nov. 18: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Mac Mahon First Floor Foyer: **Free Cessation Opportunities and the Great American Smokeout**

Free giveaways. Trade a cigarette for a special giveaway.

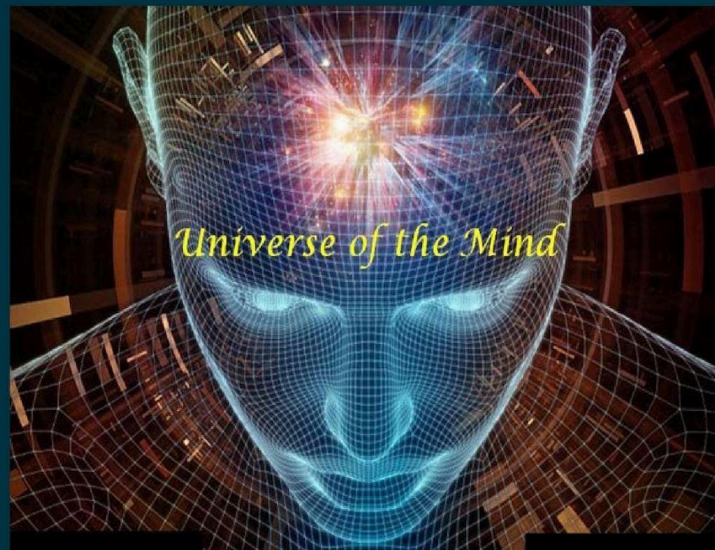
- Thursday, Nov. 18: 12 p.m., Gannon Hall, Rooms 104 and 106: **The Diet & Vision Symposium and the Great American Smokeout**

Students taking courses with Dr. Laura Twersky are presenting posters for the Diet and Vision Symposium and the Great American Smokeout Day, which is annually held on the third Thursday in November. The event is also a fundraiser for the Himalayan Cataract Project. Co-sponsors include the Office of Campus Ministry, the Smoking Cessation Task Force, the Biology Department, the TriBeta Biology Honors Society and the Public Health Club.



UNIVERSE OF THE MIND

A SPECIAL SESQUICENTENNIAL LECTURE

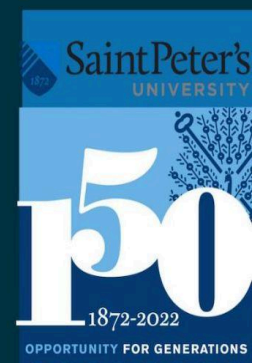


DR. WILLIAM A. GUTSCH, JR., '67

INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMER & PRODUCER

**Distinguished Professor of
the College of Arts & Sciences**

**November 15, 2021 | 12:00PM
McIntyre Conference Center**



Green impact: SPU student work with a sustainable focus

By Prof. Georgia Kral, Instructor in Communication & Media Culture



Chemistry student Oshane Annon in the SPU laboratory with Dr. Yosra Badiei and high school students assembling a fuel-cell prototype this summer. *Photo courtesy of Dr. Yosra Badiei*

Alongside faculty in the College of Arts & Science and the Guarini School of Business, Saint Peter's students are working on a wide range of sustainability topics including food security, sustainable farming, renewable energy, microplastics and more. They are conducting research and receiving grants while also having a green impact! Here are just a few:

Stephanie Martinez, Sustainability Council member, Biology major

Senior Stephanie Martinez is working with faculty members Dr. Laura Twersky and Dr. Christina Mortellaro on investigating the effects of microplastics and endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs) like Polypropylene on the development of the clawed frog. Studies have shown that exposure in embryonic, fetal development and infancy can give rise to harmful effects including possible congenital defects, increased infertility, mood disorders and cancer. Senior Avery Tan is also conducting this research.

Andrea Rosas, Honors student and double major in Environmental Studies and International Business

Senior Andrea Rosas is writing her honors thesis on sustainable supply chains in the agri-food industry. The climate crisis and the ongoing effects of the Covid-19 pandemic inspired Rosas to do this research, which will take her to a hydroponic farm in South Jersey. Her study of the concept of a closed-loop circular economic system has the potential to mitigate food waste and aid in the Earth's recovery from the impacts of climate change.

Oshane Annon, Honors student and Chemistry major

Senior Oshane Annon participated last summer in a STEM high school camp funded by the NOYCE grant NSF program where he helped high school students learn more about solar cells and clean energy technologies. He is assisting Dr. Yosra Badiei on her research to develop catalytic materials to efficiently generate "green hydrogen" by water electrolysis by capturing and storing the energy from the sun. Senior Christina Rivera and Junior Christina Maldando are also assisting in this research.



On Saturday, Oct. 9 these two migrating Pine Warblers visited the Native Plant Garden as well as the feeders used for Project FeederWatch on the campus of Saint Peter's. This is the first time Pine Warblers have been seen here. Migration is a very risky time for birds, and many don't survive, so it is encouraging that our garden and feeders provided food and shelter for these two migrants on their journey to their winter home. *Photo by Dr. Katherine Wydner*

What We're Reading & Watching

Here are some media recommendations from Council Members:

- [Save Caven Point: Rally for Jersey City's waterfront wetlands, Saint Peter's Tribune](#)

- [The world is not adapting fast enough to the climate crisis: UN report, CNN](#)
- [Plastic straw ban takes effect in NJ, Pix11](#)

A thought to leave you with...

“We don’t have time to sit on our hands as our planet burns. For young people, climate change is bigger than election or re-election. It’s life or death.”

-U.S. Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

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- *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 Prof. Georgia Kral at gkral@saintpeters.edu

Saint Peter’s University Sustainability Council
2641 John F Kennedy Blvd, Jersey City, NJ 07306