

chatham UNIVERSITY

September 21, 2012

STARS Steering Committee
AASHE
213 ½ North Limestone
Lexington, KY 40507

Dear AASHE STARS Steering Committee:

Chatham University has a long history of environmental preservation and a modern day commitment to advancing sustainability within our institution and beyond. As we celebrate this year the 50th anniversary of our alumna Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, a seminal book in the history of the environmental movement, I am pleased to present and affirm the accuracy of Chatham's first STARS Submission.

As a charter signatory of the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, Chatham is working toward achieving carbon neutrality by 2025. Chatham's leadership and commitment to applied sustainability in higher education has been widely recognized. Earning a perfect Green Rating, Chatham recently became one of only 21 schools named to The Princeton Review's Green Honor Roll. Earlier this year, Chatham was named one of the most environmentally responsible colleges in the United States and Canada, according to the *Guide to 322 Green Colleges*, a collaboration between The Princeton Review and the U.S. Green Building Council. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *USA Today*, the League of American Bicyclists, and Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future have also recently recognized Chatham's leadership in sustainability.

As we look to the future, we are eager to share with AASHE the developments of our Eden Hall Campus, which will house our School of Sustainability and the Environment, the first school of sustainability in the East and only the second in the country. With groundbreaking scheduled this fall, the 400-acre Eden Hall Campus will integrate sustainable development, learning, and living throughout its design. Utilizing the latest in sustainable technologies and methods, Eden Hall will aim to produce zero carbon emissions and manage the majority of its energy and wastewater needs directly on-site. Among the first fully sustainable campuses in higher education, it will become a one-of-a-kind venue for education, conferences, community outreach, and ecotourism.

Chatham appreciates AASHE and its commitment to advancing sustainability initiatives throughout the entire higher education industry. We are grateful for this opportunity to demonstrate our progress through STARS as we continuously strive for excellence in our sustainability efforts.

Sincerely,



Esther L. Barazzone, Ph.D.
President, Chatham University