

SUSTAINABILITY @

SOUTH SEATTLE COLLEGE

APRIL 2019

SPRING QUARTER ISSUE



(Pictured: Students from North and South campuses with Juliana v. United States plaintiff : Aji Piper.)

WOHESC 2019: Creating Sustainable Campuses

By Abigail Batinga

WOHESC (Washington-Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference) is an annual conference that inspires student and faculty leaders to help cultivate a sustainable, equitable, and just future.

This year, eight students were able to attend from South. Over the course of three days, students heard from insightful presenters and attended interesting workshops pushing for action.

I attended on Wednesday and was instantly inspired by the opening session. I think many who attended on Wednesday could come to a consensus about how powerful this opening session was.

IN THIS ISSUE

WOHESC (Washington Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference)

Earth Week @ South

The Sustainability Team @ South

Teaching proper waste sorting at South: Trash Talkers!

SBST (Sustainable Building Science Technology) BAS Program

Ban The Bottle Initiative

The opening session titled “Juliana v. United States: Using Constitutional Rights to Force Climate Recovery” was powerful, evocative, and undeniably left a lasting impact. It included the senior attorney behind the case: Andrea Rodgers, law professor Mary Wood, and two youth plaintiffs: Aji Piper and Kiran Oomen.



(Pictured: Daniel Chiu, Student)

According to the students who attended, one of the things that enhanced the experience at this conference was the equity and diversity component. Alan Foote, a student at South, said “It was inspiring to be surrounded by a diverse canvas of individuals who also share a deep, common goal: the survival of all species.”

In all efforts to advocate for the environment, it’s crucial to always consider equity, diversity, and inclusion. We should not leave behind those who are disproportionately affected by the effects of climate change and may not even know it. During one workshop titled: “Integrating Justice, Addressing Environmental Privilege in Higher Education.”,

we were asked to walk around a table with an empty cup. Around the table, there were different beans that represented certain environmental privileges such as access to fresh produce, clean air, stable access to water. For each environmental privilege you didn’t have, you’d place a bean into your cup. This was deeply eye-opening and has pushed me to find ways to ensure all sustainability efforts are combined with social justice at South.



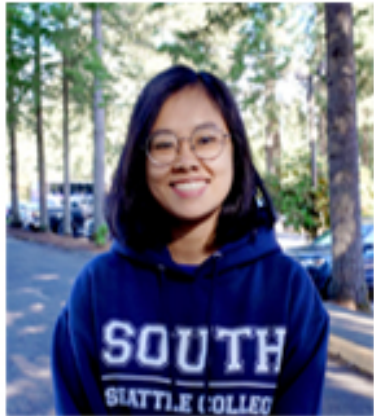
(Pictured: Alison Pugh and Steve Abercrombie speak at WOHESC)

All in all, WOHESC was a transformative experience for those who attended. I encourage more South students to attend next year! You won’t regret it.

Thank you sponsors of WOHESC, “Funding to participate was provided by Student Life, United Student Association, Office of Sustainability, and the Faculty Development Program. Thank you!”

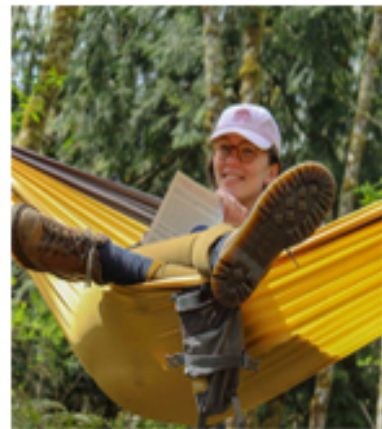
For more informaton, please contact sustainability@seattlecolleges.edu.

Meet South's **SUSTAINABILITY TEAM**



Linh Vo

The reason why I applied for this job is that I want to make an impact on our community and as the Sustainability Officer for South's student government; I was able to accomplish that. So far, I have formed a Sustainability Volunteer Group with over 30 members and distributed over 16 sets of recycle/compost/trash bins with the help of the volunteers. I hope to initiate a campaign to reduce/ban the usage of one-time plastic bottles on campus.



Hannah Fitchett

I have always had a very strong sense of fairness. I think that's why I am drawn to sustainability and environmental work. Our local environment has been victim to egregious environmental injustice by forces bigger than individuals: forces like lawyers, lobbyists, and lots of money. I want to help grow an educated, active campus community where we recognize that our individual efforts can have powerful collective impact as well.



Abigail Batinga

I applied for this position to expand my knowledge about sustainability and share this knowledge to create impactful change on my campus. Through this role, I hope to organize educational and engaging events that will help create an environmentally conscious campus that is inspired to strengthen sustainability in the school and community.

EARTH WEEK 2019

Climate Justice and Education: April 23-25

Tuesday, April 23



Advancing Economic, Racial, and Climate Justice With a Green New Deal

Since November 2018, the youth-led Sunrise Movement has brought national attention to the Green New Deal, which aims to stop the climate crisis and create millions of good jobs in the process. Hear from representatives of this movement!

WHERE?

SSC Olympic Hall 120

WHEN?

10:30-11:30 AM

Wednesday, April 24



It's Getting Hot in Here: Direct Action to Save Our Planet

A discussion of the issues surrounding the Valve Turner's historic involvement for shutting down tar sands pipelines. Michael Foster, a teacher, valve turner and tree planter presents thoughtful and courageous stories. Join the discussion!

WHEN?

SSC Clock Tower Plaza

WHERE?

10:30 - 11:35 AM

Thursday, April 25



SSC Earth Fest! 2019

Various organizations centered around our theme will be tabling at this event. Network, find opportunities, and get cool freebies. Jam out to music and get free food all while supporting sustainability at South.

WHERE?

SSC Clock Tower Plaza

WHEN?

10 AM - 2 PM

Sustainability and **STUDENT ENGAGEMENT**



TEACHING PROPER WASTE SORTING AT SOUTH: TRASH TALKERS!

By Hannah Fitchett

You may have seen students in bright yellow vests and gloves standing around the garbage bins in the cafeteria last quarter trying to talk to you or picking through the actual trash. That was Trash Talkers!

Trash Talkers is a program put on quarterly by volunteers at South. We get together and try to improve the waste diversion on campus. Waste diversion is the process of sorting through your trash, composting as much as possible, recycling what can be recycled, and sending the rest to the landfill.

The biggest challenge when it comes to sorting through waste is knowing how to do it. Sometimes things that seem like they should be recyclable actually aren't, and it runs the other way around almost as often. When there's different types of plastics, different types of compostable material, and different "rules" for how to recycle things, it can honestly get pretty confusing.

The Trash Talkers program is the current, most direct solution. We're on the "front lines", helping educate campus and community members. Sorting through your waste is a relatively small action, although, in the context of our collective efforts, it is one of the more impactful ways you can support a healthier Earth. Next time you're in the cafeteria, take a look at the guides posted above the recycling, compost, and garbage bins for help sorting your own material.

If you're interested in volunteering with the program, please email Linh Vo, linh.A.Vo@seattlecolleges.edu, to sign up for the program!

SUSTAINABILITY CURRICULUM

@ South



Presenting on our Sustainable Building Science Technology Bachelor's Degree at WOHEC

By Alison Pugh, Faculty

This past February, my colleague, Steve Abercrombie, and I presented about the work we are doing in the Sustainable Building Science Technology bachelor's program (we call it SBST for short) here at South Seattle College.* Our session was titled, "Experiential Learning beyond the Classroom: Case Studies of Project-Based Collaborations," and we co-presented with Catalina M. de Onis from Willamette University at 1:15pm on Wed. of the conference. Experiential learning is really about the process of learning through experience, aka hands-on learning. Project-based learning for us means that we are integrating real-world projects into the classroom, and students are taking the lead on managing the projects over the course of a quarter or sometimes 2 quarters.

In our classes, we are using the new City of Seattle Building Tune-Up ordinance as a framework with real buildings as our "classrooms." According to the UN Global Status Report 2018, building operations account for ~40% of energy-related carbon emissions worldwide, and Seattle is focused on decreasing those emissions with the new ordinance (<http://www.seattle.gov/environment/climate-change/buildings-and-energy/building-tune-ups>).

The Seattle College District has 14 buildings that need to comply with the ordinance, and students need training, so this was a perfect opportunity to bring this all together in the classroom, providing opportunities for students to develop technical, communication, and project management skills and, at the same time, take positive actions for the climate! Overall, the session was fun and energetic; there were a lot of questions from the audience, which was made up of about 37 students, staff, and other faculty.

My favorite session of the conference though was the final plenary with some of the youth and the lawyer representing them in the Juliana v. United States court case, calling the federal government to task for not taking action on climate change. This conference is a favorite since it focuses on what higher ed is doing in terms of sustainability in our local region; I highly recommend it!

Alison Pugh: Alison.Pugh@seattlecolleges.edu

Keep up with **SUSTAINABILITY AT SOUTH**

Follow us on social media!



INSTAGRAM

@greensouthseattlecollege



FACEBOOK

"Sustainability at South Seattle College"

Be on the lookout for...

ECO-TRIVIA

ARE YOU READY?
JOIN OUR WEEKLY TRIVIA TO WIN **PRIZES** IN
PREPARATION FOR EARTH WEEK!

TAKE THE TRIVIA ON OUR IG: @GREENSOUTHSEATTLECOLLEGE

APRIL 1 - 4 WASTE	APRIL 8 - 11 WATER	APRIL 15 - 18 FOOD
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In the weeks leading up to earth week, the sustainability team will be hosting "Eco-Trivia" through the @greensouthseattle college instagram. Through participating, you not only get new knowledge about issues and solutions surrounding the different aspects of sustainability, you also get the chance to win cool prizes! To participate, look out for a new post in the next weeks and comment your answer!

For more information, please contact
sustainability@seattlecolleges.edu