



Carl A. Zimring

Coordinator, Sustainability Studies Minor and Associate Professor

Department of Social Science and Cultural Studies

School of Liberal Arts and Sciences

108 DeKalb Hall

Pratt Institute

200 Willoughby Avenue

Brooklyn, NY 11205

Telephone: 718-687-5958

Email: czimring@pratt.edu

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Dear STARS committee members,

I write in support of Roosevelt University's STARS report. (I was a co-founder of Roosevelt's Sustainability Studies BA in 2010 and continue to collaborate with its director Michael Bryson. As such, I remain closely aware of the program's activities and achievements.)

Roosevelt, as a metropolitan university with campuses in downtown Chicago and northwest suburban Schaumburg, provides extensive opportunities for students to understand how issues of density, location, and planning shape human interactions with the environment. Furthermore, Roosevelt's extensive use of online pedagogy (demonstrated, for example in hybrid courses Professor Bryson and I have led and discuss in our July 2010 *Metropolitan Universities* article "Creating the Sustainable City: Building a Seminar [and Curriculum] through Interdisciplinary Learning") adds a dimension of technological literacy to RU's investigations of local sustainability.

I mention this as context for one of Roosevelt's distinctive achievements. Under Professor Bryson's leadership, an ongoing project of Roosevelt's Sustainability Studies program is the Schaumburg Sustainable Future (SSF) online social media project. (Stable URL: <<https://futureofschaumburg.wordpress.com>>.) SSF is a student-faculty collaboration at Roosevelt University that addresses sustainability issues, challenges, and solutions in the northwest suburbs of Chicago and, more generally, suburban communities. Conceived as an experimental class assignment in 2011, the SSF website and blog has become a locally relevant publication venue that engages sustainability topics in an interdisciplinary fashion and provides constructively critical information for the public about local suburban communities' efforts to become more sustainable in government operations, use of water and energy, and transportation systems.

Students and faculty benefit from the opportunity to produce meaningful and potentially useful research and commentary through specially focused class writing projects (both individual and collaborative), the university community has become more aware of its role in the "edge city" suburban community of Schaumburg, a major employment and shopping center in suburban Chicago, and local organizations have connected with the university in mutually beneficial ways through the website.

In a time when urban sustainability is a primary focus of city planning, parkland development, urban farming, and green infrastructure projects—all worthy endeavors most assuredly—the SSF Project (1) highlights the need for and impact of suburban-focused sustainability initiatives in public/active transportation, stormwater reduction and water conservation, and restoration of native ecosystems and (2) demonstrates the role colleges and universities can play in this process.

I should also mention that the SSF Project, by building on the research students and faculty have done over several years, allows Roosevelt to assess the progress made on these initiatives over time. As such, this is a distinctive and valuable aspect to the university's sustainability efforts.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl Zimring', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Carl Zimring