

UWG Ongoing Sustainability Research 2015-2018

- 1. Christine M. Haynes (Accounting):** Researches the indirect benefit of incorporating CSR activities into an organization.
- 2. Linxiao Liu (Accounting):** Researches the accounting dimensions of corporate social responsibility.
- 3. Sharon Seay (Accounting):** Research includes a focus on the meaning of sustainability in accounting and rent/leasing. Also how a sustainability framework into business processes and products creates value for all of a company's stakeholders.
- 4. Lisa Gezon (Anthropology):** Interested in many facets of humans and their relationship to the material environment. Her first project focused on conservation and protected area management in northern Madagascar. Her most recent project analyzed commodity chains of the recreational drug khat in Madagascar, considering land cover change, rural and urban livelihoods, and the cultural politics of drug policies and perceptions. She is currently interested in theories and practices of 'degrowth,' or practices and policies of downscaling production and consumption while increasing quality of life through such engagements as wellness and community engagement.
- 5. Andrew Edelman (Biology):** Dr. Edelman has broad research interests in the areas of animal conservation and ecology. Currently, his lab, in collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service, is studying the response of the mammalian community (small mammals, carnivores, and bats) to fire-based restoration of southeastern longleaf pine forests. He and his graduate students are also conducting research on species of conservation concern such as the Indiana bat, eastern spotted skunk, and fox squirrel. <https://sites.google.com/site/andrewjedelman/>
- 6. Yvette Garner (Biology):** Introduced species often alter the dynamics of ecosystems and it is important to understand their ecological roles in more detail. In the southeastern United States several marine mussel species have been introduced over the past three decades which pose a threat to native benthic marine organisms that share the same resources. My research seeks to gain more insights into the abundance and distribution of exotic mussels to understand more about their biological and physical tolerances in their introduced range.
- 7. Janet Genz (Biology):** Human development of waterways for transport and generation of electricity in the early 20th century had monumental, and often detrimental, impacts on freshwater environments throughout North America. Research conducted in the Genz lab investigates the breeding and early-life

development of a protected fish species, the Lake Sturgeon. Raising these fish in aquaculture facilities and subsequently releasing them to the streams and rivers where they were historically found can help restore these ecosystems to their native state. <https://sites.google.com/a/westga.edu/genz>

8. **Joe Hendricks (Biology):** Research focuses on the sustainable use of fire in the management of southeastern pine forests. Specifically, my work investigates the loss and replacement of nitrogen in fire-maintained pine forests.
9. **David Morgan (Biology):** Researches plant community ecology, studying the moss floras of unique environments such as granite outcrops and cedar glades, both of which are home to many species of rare plants. The common theme in all this research is the characterization and protection of unique habitats as places supporting unique plant communities and rare plants.
10. **Sahrmistha, Basu-Dutt (Chemistry):** Research into the use of noble metal nanoparticles in solar cells. The nanomaterials have unique optical properties due to the localized surface plasmon resonance that can be exploited to increase the efficacy lightgathering in solar cells.
11. **Justin Daugherty (English):** Creative writing work in creative nonfiction is sustainability-focused. Justin is working on a book of essays about water and ice, currently. Past fiction also focused on climate change, anthropocentrism, and engages new research on related topics.
12. **Lisa Connell (Foreign Languages):** Studies postcolonial eco-criticism as a theoretical framework for Francophone literature.
13. **Robert Kilpatrick (Foreign Languages):** Current research focuses on the representation of tourism in postcolonial spaces, specifically through the lens of French- language graphic narratives. These narratives often depict the negative impact of tourism on the natural environment and/or idealize pristine pre-colonial spaces. I explore to what extent anti-touristic discourses and visual strategies are entwined with and dependent upon the very practices they denounce.
14. **Hannes Gerhardt (Geosciences):** Has been involved in researching the geopolitics of the Arctic, including the competition to gain access to resources, such as oil and gas, in a region that is quickly changing due to global climate change. The juxtaposition between the increasing focus on sustainability, on the one hand, and economic growth via energy resources, on the other, is a key theme in this research. Dr. Gerhardt has also worked with students via consecutive SRAP grants to calculate the University of West Georgia carbon footprint as well as to chart

business as usual and alternative future trajectories.

- 15. David Bush (Geosciences):** Researches the impact of storms on the shoreline of Georgia and Puerto Rico and the unsustainable planning that puts humans and the environment at risk when building too close to the shoreline.
- 16. Shea Rose (Geosciences):** Research interests lie within the fields of climatology, energy and sustainability. Her work primarily focuses on the community to regional scale and includes the inadvertent modification of weather and climate due to human activities (urban heat island effects, atmospheric pollen, and pollutants) as well as impacts for health, sustainable planning and energy. In 2011, she completed a summer fellowship at the EPA examining the relationship between science and environmental policies. Currently, she is a part of the American Meteorological Society's Climate Studies Diversity Cohort which is focused on increasing STEM participation among underserved students in the geosciences. Her highly interdisciplinary research has been published in journals such as Earth Interactions, Applied Optics, GIScience & Remote Sensing and Landscape and Urban Planning.
- 17. Molly, McCullers (History):** Research of the history and politics of water control in the Kalahari and Namib deserts. Sustainability and environmental fragility are key factors in the region's history.
- 18. Susana Velez-Castrillon (Management):** Research in the areas of corporate responsibility (CSR) and sustainability focuses on the impact of CSR on corporate reputation. She also has studied the effect of CSR practices in legitimizing corporate activities. Additionally, she is interested in Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) and its effect on stock performance. Dr. Velez-Castrillon teaches an undergraduate-level course on CSR, and is currently working with students on a project about CSR labels.
- 19. Minna Rollins (Marketing):** Research interests include customer information usage, sales management, international marketing, and corporate social responsibility (CSR) and ethics. She has published her research in the journals as Industrial Marketing Management and the Journal of Business Research and in a number of international conference proceedings. Minna has served as co-quest editor for the Journal of Business and Industrial Marketing's special issue focusing on ethics and CSR in business networks.
- 20. Agnieszka Chwialkowska (Marketing):** Research interests lie at the intersection of sustainability, social media, consumer behavior, and international marketing. She investigates how social media communication drives positive changes in consumer behavior including green lifestyle adoption. She examines how religion and culture affect adoption of green consumer behavior.

- 21. Robert Sanders (Political Science):** Conducts research in the field of environmental policy, publishing articles such as "How Environmentally Friendly Candidates Fared in the Congressional Elections of 2002: A Time of Green Anxiety," published in International Social Science Review.

- 22. Landwewatte DeSilva (Physics):** Research can broadly be described as a series of efforts to explore the quantum mechanical nature of electronic and photonic functionality of nanoscale devices through (i) design of semiconductor (organic /inorganic) heterostructures with desired properties and (ii) embedding these designer materials in field-enhancing structures such as waveguide resonators and nano/micro- cavities. Current research projects included the study of dye-sensitized solar cells, polymer based optoelectronic devices, fabrication, investigation of inorganic nano- particles and devices and study of exciton dynamics in organic molecular thin films. His interdisciplinary research efforts have attracted a large group of talented undergraduate students across COSM majoring in physics, chemistry, pre-engineering, and mathematics in a variety of projects.

- 23. Winston Tripp (Sociology):** Has researched on recycling behavior as a gateway into environmental movements and patterns of participation in environmental movements. While continuing his work analyzing environmental movements, Dr. Tripp has expanded his focus to include a study of how society frames wild fires, including the extent to which they are understood as linked to human activity.