

**SAVE SOME
GREEN
AND BE
GREEN!**

Pick up a free copy of this **GREEN WOLF** newsletter and pass it along to your friends and colleagues! The more awareness there is about recycling and sustainability on campus, the quicker we can get to a clean and green-friendly earth. This is something that we should all **strive** for.



UPCOMING EVENTS



BIKE TO WORK DAY

On May 20th, oil up those gears and pull out your bicycle helmet, because it's time for the 7th annual Bike to Work Day in Anchorage. Leave the car in the garage for this environmentally friendly event, hosted by the Municipality of Anchorage, and get involved in a number of events throughout the day, including team registration, t-shirt drawings, and a trail count. Show up at Starbucks or the Cuddy Hall wearing your bicycle helmet between 8am and 2pm and win a fresh cup of Drip coffee!



For more info, visit <http://www.muni.org/departments/health/planning/pages/biketoworkday.aspx>

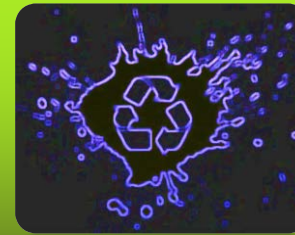
The Green Wolf



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THE 2011 RECYCLING FAIR @ UAA



The Student Union parking lot was recently the site of an unprecedented event: over 29,114 lbs of old electronics being moved into four giant moving trucks in just five hours. That's just under 15 tons of electronics, people, and it was all being donated to recycling as part of the 2011 Recycling Fair at UAA.

On April 23rd, the recycling company Total Reclaim worked for free alongside the UAA Recycle Crew to move the massive amounts of electronic junk being brought in.

"We had all sorts of people bringing stuff in," said Kent Spiers, Administrative Assistant for the Sustainability. "As long as they had a UAA WolfCard, Providence ID, or Anchorage School District flyer, we recycled their electronics for free. And man we got a lot of people,

whether they were students, hospital workers, short, tall, wide...they all had stuff, and most of it had been hoarded for quite a while. So this was a perfect opportunity for them to get that off their chests."

The SU parking lot, which Parking Services had graciously roped off for the event, wasn't the only place experiencing recycling on Saturday. Inside the Student Union, a Recycling Crafts Fair was held in which patrons such as Assistant Art professor Herminia Din conducted booths showing how to make shoulder bags out of plastic shopping bags and bracelets out of old telephone wire. Additional booths provided recycling facts and sustainability-minded advice.

For a five hour period, UAA really got its *recycle* on.

UAA NEWS



UAA Youth Eco-Forum

Keynote speaker Majora Carter will be coming up to speak at the Wendy Williamson on May 4th as part of the 2011 Youth Eco-Forum, an annual event aimed at promoting environmental education among teenagers around the northern regions. This event is being put on by The Northern Forum, a nonprofit, international organization composed of sub-national or regional governments from 8 northern countries. As the 10th anniversary of the event, the Youth Eco-Forum will finally (and for the first time) be coming up to Alaska. 80-100 youth from all over the north will join the conference to explore research and questions concerning climate change and forested landscapes. Alaska Youth for Environmental Action (AYEA) and Alaska Geographic, the nonprofit coordinating partner of the Chugach Children's Forest, are working closely with the Northern Forum to develop this important session for kids and college students. The event will run from May 4-7 on the UAA campus.



MEET THE CREW.

Paula Williams
Director UAA Sustainability
Graduated: UAF 2009

After spending over 20 years as an Anchorage attorney, Paula Williams decided she wanted to try something new, and radically different. "If you're looking for a job where you deal with high levels of stress on a daily basis, being an attorney is perfect," Paula said. "But I didn't enjoy that one bit, and I had to get out."

So Paula returned to college, and began taking classes at UAA. At first she thought she might pursue teaching science at the middle school or high school level, but it only took one classroom visit experience to quiet that notion.

One of the UAA classes Paula took was an Ecology course. Her professor asked her if she had ever considered going to graduate school; not having a better idea, Paula decided to go for it. She needed a research question in order to obtain her Ph.D., and the one she came up with was:

"Why do so many people in the USA say they're concerned about the environment, but when you look at the level of environmentally-responsible behaviors, there's a big gap between what's being said and what's actually being done?"

This research question had a lot to do with sustainability, and during the last six months Paula was finishing up her Ph.D., UAA advertised the position of Sustainability director. Paula applied and was accepted, but not allowed to take the job until she completed her dissertation.

"I had to write that thing out in about five weeks," Paula said. "And

then rewrite it again because it turned out something was screwed up the first time. That was just too much fun."

But after all that hard work, Paula finally got the Sustainability Director position. And while she had hoped to get away from stressful job situations, her new one came with a whole heap of job responsibilities.

"I could spend a long, long time listing out all my job duties," Paula said.

In an attempt to give a brief overview, Paula's first focus is to oversee the Recycling Crew, making sure everything is being done smoothly. She interacts with the Recycling Director and Assistant Director, as well as Administrative Assistant Kent Spiers, to make sure the Recycling Crew is operating at full capacity. In addition, Paula also serves as the advisor and co-advisor for many clubs and programs, including the Bike Club and the Sustainability Club, supporting those student clubs on campus that have a sustainability component to them.

Paula also runs several working groups, the Sustainability Action Board being the most prominent and reporting directly to the Chancellor. She is working to bring a Sustainability minor to UAA, implement a more efficient transportation system, and reduce energy and paper usage, among many other things. Seriously, she does a lot.

"This job is a massive step up from being an attorney," Paula said. "I feel like I'm getting things done."

THE BIG QUESTION

WHY DO WE EXIST?

That question is far too deep to be explored in a simple edition of The Green Wolf, UAA's sustainability newsletter, but we do recommend you check out a copy of The Philosopher's Weekly, or perhaps a Cosmo. They usually explore that kind of stuff, right next to their articles on "The Top 10 Ways to Heat up Your Sex Life."

Here at The Green Wolf, we leave the philosophical questions of morality and human existence to those with greater abstract thinking abilities and higher pay grades. The types of questions we concern ourselves with are much more earthly-based, but still close to equally important. Questions such as:

"How can we improve the environment?"

"What are the best ways to conserve our resources?"

"How can we be more energy efficient?"

With questions such as these, we and other green minded and environmentally friendly

individuals keep ourselves pretty busy. There are no solid answers, just as there are none for the reason of our existence. New methods and options are explored on a continual basis. Avenues are considered, programs are implemented, resources are tested. Sustainability members are always hard at work.

In the age-old words of Kermit the Frog:



Want a chance to be featured in The Green Wolf?

Every issue, The Green Wolf runs a bio on an individual highly involved with recycling here at UAA. Your turn could be next!

Get yourself green-minded and become involved with recycling activities going on around

campus and Anchorage. Then send in a short description about yourself and what you've been doing to improve our environment to The Green Wolf at www.sustain@uaa.alaska.edu.

This is your chance to let UAA know what you're doing to keep our community green!

Please, keep description length under 500 words.

GREEN LIFE

Paula Williams, the UAA Director of Sustainability, will be leading an Honors A192 seminar, Field Notes From Catastrophe, a 3 credit course beginning fall semester 2011. The seminar uses *Field Notes From a Catastrophe: Man, Nature, and Climate Change* to explore climate change.

Readings and guest lectures will explore how climate change is modeled for the future and how past climate is studied.

Students learn the arguments for and against climate change through the book and through supplemental readings from Lomborg, Dyson, Lynas, and others.

You don't need to be an Honors student to enroll in this course. And as Paula Williams herself says, "How much do you really know about climate change? Come take this class and inform your own opinions about the topic, instead of letting your favorite talking head tell you what to think."

