

The campus sustainability awards program was established in 1997 to recognize outstanding individuals and departments demonstrating strong commitments to reducing CU-Boulder's impact on the environment.

The 2014 campus sustainability awardees are:

- **Max Boykoff, Green Faculty**

Max Boykoff has helped to develop the International Collective on Environment, Policy and Society (ICE CaPs), an interdisciplinary research group that brings together graduate students and faculty in the social sciences and other departments for collaboration on research and ideas focused on sustainability within the university, local community, and beyond. Inside the Greenhouse works to deepen the community's understanding of how issues associated with climate change are or can be communicated, by creating artifacts through interactive theatre, film, fine art, performance art, and television programming. Inside the Greenhouse provides a hands-on experience to empower students to engage in the 'how' of environmental and sustainability outreach. Through both ICE CaPs and Inside the Greenhouse, Max has helped establish CU's place as a campus committed to advancing sustainability discourse. Max is deeply engaged in cross-cutting both disciplinary and traditional academic boundaries. Max goes beyond his individual research and obligations as an adviser to push for collaboration across campus. He seeks to bring together students and faculty to discuss sustainability and how to effect wider impact.

- **Mark Lapham, Individual Achievement**

Mark works at Environmental Health and Safety to reduce hazardous chemical waste leaving campus. It costs the university money to dispose of hazardous waste. Mark's efforts are certainly saving money, but are also about engaging the larger research community in caring about hazardous waste generation and giving them opportunities to reduce their waste. Some of the efforts that Mark has been involved in are well-established; others just started last year in large part due to his support and initiative. Mark has been instrumental in helping to setup acetone and ethanol pilot recycling projects, supporting battery recycling, initiating carboy recycling and collaborating on safe chemical bottle recycling. He is active member on the Zero Waste Sustainability Action Team and brings great expertise to that team.

- **Megan McGrath, Individual Achievement**

Megan has demonstrated exceptional leadership in Sustainability during her time at CU. As a hall director, she has served as a role model for other professional staff, and has inspired her RA student staff to new heights in education, outreach, and initiative in environmental conservation, waste reduction, and dedication to sustainability. She also paved the way for several programs that would not be as successful without her.

As Megan proved the value and feasibility of composting in the halls, CU now has 7 Residence Halls with 24/7 front desk composting. In her leadership on One Million Acts of Green, she has shown the other Hall Directors how competition can be used to build community and develop understanding in our residence halls. Megan has fully utilized this competition and the incentives to make her staff the most committed and successful staff on campus. While other buildings have struggled to get as much as 10% participation from their residents, Megan secured a 93% participation rate in Andrews Hall and 78% in Smith Hall

In her few years here, she has made a lasting imprint – Smith and Arnett halls are now seen as leading the other Residence Halls in sustainability initiatives. They attract students and staff who are passionate about sustainability because of the reputation Megan has created as a hall director.

The assigned duties of a Hall Director do not require any involvement in sustainability. Every action Megan has taken to develop sustainability programming and initiatives on our campus has been in addition to all her full-time responsibilities in crisis management and building community.

- **OIT Academic Technology Services, Departmental Achievement**

CU-Boulder had an unmanaged print environment that was creating a great amount of waste and presented a significant hurdle in terms of sustainability. Students were printing whatever they wanted and as much as they wanted. We were spending nearly \$400,000 a year on paper and toner, and had a real problem around control and accountability.

OIT partnered with Xerox to implement a Managed Print Services environment that has achieved significant sustainability goals. We're using Energy Star-compliant devices, toner that requires up to 20% less power and non-toxic solid ink. And we can control what's being printed and, as a result, have decreased our print volume by 70 percent since 2001. Multi-function devices also allow students to scan documents to email, accessing study material in digital form rather than as hard copies. Digital "impressions" doubled within the first two years of use.

The Student Printing and Scanning Service has evolved to drive sustainability and accountability while improving security, ease of use, and scalability. Student Printing and Scanning Service (SPS) is under the management of OIT Academic Technology Services. Julian Kinsman initiated the SPS enhancement project. Jeff Greene is the service manager for SPS who was very involved in successful project implementation.

- **Miranda Redmond, Student Leadership**

Miranda has been involved with CU Green Labs for as long as she has been a graduate student in the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department where she has been instrumental in enhancing the culture of sustainability. In her role as a volunteer and paid eco-leader and as a team lead, Miranda has:

- set-up foam and pipette tip box recycling
- conducted lab audits for EBio Ramaley labs
- given presentations on conservation to EBio faculty and graduate students
- recruited new Eco-Leaders for EBio labs
- led conservation efforts connected with the Ramaley Building Pilot Energy Project
- implemented the process where the EBio Green Labs Committee reviews requests for conservation dollars to supplement the purchase of energy efficient equipment and green lab supplies

EBio is perhaps the most engaged lab research department on campus when it comes to conservation of resources and Miranda has play a large role in that.

- **Matt Ribarich, Student Leadership**

Matt Ribarich has been CUSG Sustainability Director and Chair of the CUSG Environmental Board for two years. He is overextended but makes time to advance sustainability. He has struggled with difficult issues: the future of the CU recycling effort; the promotion of local food and zero waste on campus; the reformation of the Sustainable CU grant fund; the future of the Energy & Climate Revolving Fund; and the ongoing changes in CUSG funding for cost centers. In all areas, Matt has contributed to success.

Many of his contributions are not related to his positions, but to his work as a student activist. He coordinated a class project for ENVS 3001 where he, and a group of fellow students, developed outreach materials, conducted surveys and peer-institution review, and completed life cycle analyses to determine the most effective strategies for increasing the sustainability in the UMC and how to best influence CU students to adopt more sustainable practices.

Matt is passionate about zero waste and local food. Matt has gone the extra mile needed to understand fully the financial, contractual, logistical, and cultural realities and has helped navigate new pathways. Matt is informed and knowledgeable and presents the student perspective firmly, candidly, but with respect and compassion for all points of view.

Matt has worked to empower the next generation of sustainability leaders on campus. He created a sustainability commission of students from across campus, primarily undergraduates, who are now engaging in sustainability issues on campus and accomplishing their own initiatives.

Matt has greatly contributed to the long-spanning, impressive history of student leadership on sustainability issues at CU Boulder.

- **Virginia Schultz, Individual Achievement**

Virginia has been the face of sustainability, energy conservation and 'greening' efforts at CU Conference Services and within the larger CU community. Virginia is keen to ensure all staff and campus visitors are aware of CUCS' efforts in this field and provides excitement helping to get everyone on board. It is clear to all who meet Virginia that this passion runs deep.

Everything that Virginia has achieved over her 14 years at CU has contributed towards the advancement of creating a greener future at CU and within the surrounding community. The impact can be seen campus and nation-wide, reflected in conference groups engaging in zero waste initiatives and purchasing carbon offsets.

Her consistent commitment and participation in numerous events and committees is commendable. Virginia's efforts greatly impact over 25,000 guests served by CUCS each summer.

- **Nii Armah Sowah, Civic Achievement**

Nii Armah is a master at building the community strength and vibrancy necessary for sustainability. He does this as senior instructor in Theatre & Dance and at the many civic events where he leads people in music and dance.

Since 1996, Nii Armah has been using songs, rhythm games, storytelling and dance to facilitate community building, cultivate multi-cultural understanding and encourage personal growth. Drawing from his diverse background, Nii Armah blends his African heritage and understanding of Western psychology to provide powerful and unique experiences for participants. Nii Armah founded 1000 Voices Project which was founded on the conviction that whenever we raise our voices collectively, change is inevitable. He is dedicated to reaching out to as many people as possible to improve their wellness and quality of life and connecting with people's spirit in an authentic way.

On Campus, he has breathed new life and possibilities into how we approach the issue of sustainability. His leadership at the Peak to Peak program has energized faculty. Imagine 65 faculty members in a room singing and dancing with each other. At this training for faculty, Nii Armah effectively merges the social and spiritual aspects of sustainability and frames their approach to sustainability.

The many events where he has shared his gift of African song and dance doesn't begin to do justice to his impact. Nii Armah's personal commitment to helping improve Africa, his motherland, has led him to embark on a self-funded mission to empower artists to help heal the continent by becoming aware of the power they wield. And under his leadership, the CFA Colorado initiative has helped fund a school building, computers and school supplies for a school in Ghana.

The South African concept of Ubuntu—I am what I am because of what we are—permeates everything that Nii Armah brings into his many extended communities. It is because Nii Armah lives and believes Ubuntu that he extends himself so generously.

Special recognition certificates are awarded to:

- **Center for Community Garden, Partnership for Sustainability**

Through a partnership between Environmental Design classes and Housing & Dining Services, the campus has a culinary herb garden in the Center for Community's west outdoor dining area. When C4C was built, the outdoor dining area on the west side of the building was designed to have an edible garden.

Student volunteers gain practical experience, not only in gardening, but also understanding food safety issues, assessing plant health and irrigation issues, and landscape design. All the herbs, along with tomatoes and peppers, are harvested and utilized by chefs within the C4C Dining Center.

This collaborative partnership is only possible through the volunteer commitment of ENVD senior instructor Tori Derr and the desire of dining staffers Cindy Lambert and Lauren Heising. All have played key roles in making the garden space a successful partnership that is an educational and experiential platform for students.

- **Closed Loop Film Plastics Program, Partnership for Sustainability**

An interdepartmental team coordinated implementation of CU's first effort to recycle low density polyethylene film (LDPE) while securing purchase of the finished product- recycled-content trash and recycling bags- for use at CU.

Closed-loop processes where a post-consumer material is diverted from landfill, shipped to an end-user, then purchased as a new product which can be recovered again is the highest level of accomplishment in the secondary materials industry.

This program began with the 2012-13 football season. For the first time, commonly generated film plastics can be recycled: ice bags, can liners, pallet wrap, and recycling bags from tailgate parties. This ability led to the Ralphies Green Stampede campaign to surpass 90 percent diversion for the first time in CU's distinguished recycling history, demonstrating that a definitive zero waste goal can be practically achieved. To date, 1,800 pounds of LDPE have been recycled, saving 33 million BTUs- equivalent to 260 gallons of gasoline.

Companies like Petoskey and Trex/Mobile are now looking to colleges and universities nationwide as viable suppliers of this increasingly valuable resin.

This program demonstrates the "can-do" attitude it often takes to launch a new and challenging achievement among multiple departments. The Environmental Center and Facilities Management Environmental Services contributed capital funds along with collecting and baling wet LDPE from football games. Property Services and the Distribution Center provided collection of dry LDPE from academic/administrative buildings, baling the LDPE, and coordinating shipping.

- **Population Conversation Program, Civic Achievement**

There are thousands of organizations dedicated to conserving the Earth's natural resources and combatting climate change, but very few address the impact of exponential population growth. CU's Dr. Albert Bartlett was a pioneer in this area, spreading the word that no growth is sustainable.

Kelly Simmons and Susan Beckett took it upon themselves to convert Dr. Bartlett's population lecture to a lasting form, coordinated training modules and contributing experts, and organized a training for interested participants who then are able to deliver the lecture.

In August 2013, the first group of presenters was trained in how to give Dr. Bartlett's famous talk about exponential growth and the consequences of mindless consumption: Sustainability 101: Arithmetic, Population, and Energy. This presentation begins the conversation about exponential growth, and how it can be applied to overpopulation and energy consumption.

Despite Dr. Bartlett's recent passing, his most famous lecture lives on. People can now request this presentation for classes, community groups, schools, or churches.

- **Jacqueline Richardson, Individual Achievement**

Jacquie Richardson started as Director of Organic Chemistry Teaching Labs last year. Jacquie took on the responsibility of redistilling acetone, collected from many labs in the Chemistry Department. Reuse is estimated to have saved the Chemistry Department \$1500 in acetone purchases. She also has been working to replace toxics used in the O-Chem Teaching Labs with green chemistry experiments (bromination of stilbene, synthesis and recrystallization of adipic acid, kinetics of hydrolysis, Electrophilic Aromatic Iodination, and palladium-catalyzed alkyne coupling).

Jacquie's efforts to teach future scientists green chemistry skills have lasting impacts with over 800 students that pass through the Organic Chemistry Teaching Labs every year. Her efforts to reduce hazardous waste generation go beyond her responsibilities and are deserving of recognition.