The Sustainability Literacy Institute (SLI) is the physical, pedagogical, virtual and institutional hub for sustainability literacy efforts at CofC. The purpose of SLI is to foster positive social, economic and environmental change by way of a sustainably literate campus community.

sustain.cofc.edu  #notjustusjustice

**About SLI** | **Events** | **SLI Scholars** | **SLI Ambassadors** | **Contact SLI** | **Faculty Resources** | **Changemaker Challenge**
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**The Resilient Advocate**

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**Director’s Note...**

The SLI and our allies have been busy promoting social justice in many forms this semester. In the true spirit of collaboration, we’ve worked with faculty, staff and students from almost every school on campus to highlight social justice problems and stimulate discussion about solutions. The problems we are facing today can’t be solved without working together!

Our QEP aims to prepare College of Charleston students for interdisciplinary problem solving, and the SLI is modeling that philosophy. Every semester, we work with collaborators to support problem solving processes and find big picture solutions, and that’s not just words in a report...it’s boots on the ground and funding in the hand.

This semester we sponsored or cosponsored ?? events and gave $? In minigrants to students, faculty and staff to support works that raised awareness about social justice, including two art exhibits in Addlestone Library with social justice themes and events spotlighting the power of (oral and written) words, a welcome for the LGBTQ community on campus, and an acknowledgement of the hidden contributions of African slaves who built many of the College’s oldest existing structures.

Next semester, we will offer more opportunities to work on social justice problems that are important to our CofC community, starting with a series of problem solving workshops designed to give participants tools that apply broadly to any problem solving scenario. Conducted by CofC’s Dr. David Hansen, an expert in social and environmental entrepreneurship, these workshops are free for students, who can bring a problems to solve or choose one from a list of problems provided by faculty from an array of disciplines.

Read more about the workshops and other events, including the SLI’s Be a Changemaker Challenge, (taking place in March) in which interdisciplinary teams of students can win up to $5000 to implement winning ideas.

—SLI Director Todd LeVasseur

If you saw and heard the social justice theme around campus this past semester and wondered how you could get your social justice concerns into that spotlight—NOW’S YOUR CHANCE! Go to www.sustain.cofc.edu and cast your vote for the fourth year theme.
Whooo Speaks for Youuu?

By Bee McGee (20)

“It’s just a word, you snowflake... why are you so sensitive about this?”

I have heard this rebuttal so many times on campus in recent years, and nearly every time, it is a reflexive defense when someone is called out for their use of the word “retard” in casual conversation. Every deflecting tactic is used in order for these people to act like, somehow, they are the ones in the right here. They shift the blame on the one who called them out. They try to explain how they’re simply using “correct medical language”. They talk about how their right to free speech means that they can say it if they want. But it is all to distract from the issue that they have to know is true: “retard” is not an acceptable term at all, whether in the medical world or the world of the College of Charleston campus. And it is time that we brought use of it to a full stop.

Read more at sustain.cofc.edu/blogs

Sustainability Advocacy at CofC...

You got options:)

First option, you can attend events around campus.

Second option, you can take courses related to sustainability.

Third option, you can apply for a mini-grant to bring your idea to promote sustainability into fruition.

Fourth option, you can submit artwork to the Student Art Expression of the year.

Our favorite option, you can apply to become a part of the Sustainability Literacy Scholar Program (SLSP) or ambassador program and do all of

There’s an (SLI) App for that!

The College of Charleston’s Sustainability Literacy Institute is developing a mobile application to assist The College in its sustainability goals. The application will serve as a hub for information, applications, event calendars, and where to recycle on campus, and more!

Using the app’s unique social network and connectivity functions, students will be able to engage in live chats during key speaking events, connect with peers to compare utility usage, see who is attending events, check-in at events, and produce social media messaging with instant feed updates for hash-tagged content.

Further, the application will contain a knowledge section, which will be composed of content specific to each year’s QEP theme. The knowledge aspect of the app will be connected with the United Nations Sustainability Quiz question bank, so students (and professors) can access weekly quizzes to test their sustainability knowledge. (Look for opportunities to win prizes once the app rolls out in early spring!)

This app will supplement curricular and extracurricular activities for CoC students with its unique social and knowledge-based hubs. In all, the mobile application presents itself as an opportunity to reach students outside of the classroom, facilitate discussion, and provide a knowledge resource for students.

The rollout of this mobile application will place the College of Charleston at the cutting edge of using technology to engage people with sustainability topics across the triple bottom line.

“We hope the app will lead to greater student participation in sustainability plans and initiatives, a reduction in consumption by students, and a more informed campus community,” said MES student Zachary Stephens, who worked with a coder to create the app.

Coming Spring of 2019...SLI Mobile App!
Sometimes you think your life is planned out...  
...then you find it leads you in a new direction

By Sallie Walkup (‘19)

College causes a lot of people to reevaluate themselves, and Marybeth Grimes admits she’s one of those...

She’s student at The College who is in the process of redesigning her way of life. She is currently a senior pursuing a degree in Public Health with minors in Psychology and Environmental and Sustainability Studies. She seems to know where she’s going now, but these fields were not a part of her original plan.

She started off wanting to major in biology, but new courses took her in different directions. “I took intro to exercise science and intro to public health to see which one I liked better. I liked public health a lot more, so I went with that one.” She took a nutrition class the following semester and loved it. “I didn’t have the awareness before of why people didn’t eat the healthiest, and it made me want to do public health.”

Adding minors was also a change. She took an environmental health course that made her realize her previous schooling did not teach her about how the environment was changing or the impact humans have on the planet. “It made me sad, so I wanted to learn more,” she said. This realization inspired her Environmental and Sustainability Studies minor.

As she engaged with environmental studies, Marybeth decided to spend her time in a Garden Apprenticeship Program sophomore year. It was led by an intern from the Office of Sustainability.

“It was my segway into the office. Now I’m in my third semester working between the Office of Sustainability and the Sustainability Literacy Institute,” she said. Marybeth’s friends and professors in the programs have had major positive impacts on her new life. Her best friend, who graduated, worked at the Office of Sustainability and introduced her to how to live zero-waste and be more aware of where things come from. “Dr. Le-Vasseur and Dr. Lavender were both influential,” she said. “I really like the lifestyles they live and think they’re inspiring.”

These role models taught her what Sustainability is and why it is important to teach it to others. “Sustainability is keeping what we have in pristine condition and improving it, and not taking away from future generations,” she said. “Basically, not taking more from the Earth than what we can give back.”

Marybeth hopes to make the best life for her future kids and generations ahead of her by becoming more sustainable now. She wants others to do the same.

“I’ve always cared about the environment, but I want to help more with empowerment,” she says. “Sustainability is really important now because college students are huge makers of change. There is always room for innovation and creativity. Things are always changing and evolving, so we have to adapt and be resilient.”

Marybeth hopes college students realize that sustainable living is for everyone. It is not for certain majors or minors, and it does not take big changes to your lifestyle.

“Sustainability starts with becoming aware,” she states. “Before you make a decision, think about where something comes from and every time you use something become more aware of it.” For social sustainability she requests that people “take a positive outlook on every-thing. Be kind to one another and don’t judge, or jump to conclusions.”

Whether it is giving up plastic straws, using reusable containers, or starting a compost pile, she wants students to know, “you can make an impact” and “we are the generation of change.”

Marybeth emphasized that any individual could be sustainable and still live the life they want. She has time to travel, hang out with friends, relax with a cup of tea, have jobs and take yoga classes.

When redesigning your life in college, consider how sustainability could change your future. As Marybeth says, “You can have any life you want, and do it sustainably.”

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Social justice is broken. Quick! Gather your crazy, kooky, brilliant friends and register for a session with Dr. David Hansen for an active, brainy problem-solving event where you and your team can have fun, display your creativity, and dissect and solve a social justice problem...oh, and there will also be food. Free for students. For more information, go to sustain.cofc.edu and click Be a Changemaker. (Spaces open starting spring semester.)
Propose a sustainability focused (SF) or sustainability related (SR) course: support the QEP and earn a stipend!

The QEP’s SLOs might be very similar to some you currently use. Why not get your SF or SR course on the books? All you have to do is:

1. use this form to propose a course: http://sustain.cofc.edu/content/resources/proposal-for-courses.pdf
2. Include one or more QEP SLOs in your syllabus
3. Assess outcomes for those SLOs with an assignment or exam question(s)

Contact Steven Jaume for more information.

Faculty Exchange Program

Our QEP calls for interdisciplinary approaches to problem solving, so let’s make an effort to show our students how important that is!

Here’s one way you can offer interdisciplinary perspectives to your students: participate in the SLI’s Faculty Exchange program, in which you sign up to give one or more guest lectures for professors in different disciplines and/or you book one or more guest lectures for your own courses.

Share your discipline’s perspective on sustainability, the triple bottom line, systems thinking, or other related topics.

Go to sustain.cofc.edu to complete a form providing short descriptions of three guest lectures you are prepared to offer. A list of guest lectures will be available starting in early January. Contact Steve Jaume for more information.

Changemaker Challenge—The SLI’s annual innovation forum, called Changemaker Challenge, will be accepting proposals through February. The final competition will be held in March 2019. Consider including this competition in a course or offering it for extra credit this spring! For more information, Contact Dave Hansen.

Be a Changemaker Workshop Dates

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<td>Thursday, Jan. 17</td>
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<td>Tuesday, Jan. 22</td>
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Incorporate a problem solving workshop into your spring course and support the QEP’s mandate for interdisciplinary thinking!

QEP Summer Research Fellowships

The QEP on “Sustainability Literacy as a Bridge to Addressing 21st Century Problems” invites all tenured or tenure track faculty to propose a summer research program in sustainability literacy. Go to sustain.cofc.edu.

Contact the SLI Faculty

Todd LeVasseur, Director—Levasseurtj@cofc.edu
Caroline Foster, SLI Outreach—Fosterch@cofc.edu
Barry Stiebel, SLI Student Engagement—stiefelb@cofc.edu
Steve Jaume, SLI Faculty Engagement—jaumes@cofc.edu
David Hansen, SLI Innovation—hansend@cofc.edu
SLI Events, Fall 2018!

Don’t miss these Upcoming SLI Events starting in January!

**Be a Changemaker: Creative Problem Solving Workshops:** Get some outside-of-the-box problem solving skills in these active, creative problem-definition and solution events with social entrepreneurship professor David Hansen. Bring your friends and your social justice concerns...or just bring your friends and get ideas for problems that you could work on. Dates throughout the early spring. Free. Contact Dr. Hansen at hansend@cofc.edu.

**Changemaker Challenge:** Part of the ?? Week in March of 2019. Teams of students will develop social justice solutions and make a pitch to local leaders in sustainability; Everyone competing has a chance at winning part of the $5000+ prize money to help further develop, test and implement their solutions; According to Dr. David Hansen, who is leading this event:

- It’s a chance to share ideas for solving social justice problems.
- It’s also a chance to see what others are doing.
- The focus is on solutions, so it should be a positive/hopeful event.
- It’s an opportunity to get feedback on solutions, as well as help in developing and implementing them. Contact Dr. David Hansen at hansend@cofc.edu or go to sustain.cofc.edu to get more information.

**Man2Man Series:** Topics vary month to month; intended to create a dialogue around the social identity of masculinity in supporting a positive and healthy campus climate. While the series is focused on masculinity and other gender identities, women are a part of this conversation, as they are integrated at every level on this campus.

Topics for spring include: Self identity, faith and being centered (1/14), The social construction of gender (2/11), Financial empowerment (3/4) and Black and brown male issues (4/1)

**Year 3 SLI Student Art Contest:** Theme is sustainable food systems; Deadline is March 19. Look for artists call with details for this year’s contest on sustain.cofc.edu in January. Student artists can get up to $2000 to cover expenses of production, and winning pieces will be displayed at venues around campus during the fall of 2019.

Did I see you there?

Some of the SLI sponsored events from fall 2018!