

UH Sustainability Newsletter

Informing the UH community of the latest green events and initiatives on campus, spanning from recycling to research

HEADLINES

GREEN SOLUTIONS: NEW PROJECT TEACHES STUDENTS TO FIX RECYCLING CHALLENGE

April 29, 2011 –

Determination has paid off for the College of Architecture Student Council. After two years of working to improve recycling in their building, the student council has found a solution with a grant to fund a new Industrial Design project. The course will incorporate a real life design problem into the curriculum of the course and teach students to go green in the process.

The Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture is known for its green initiatives and design principles, and being open 24 hours, is a second home to many of its students. With so much time spent within the building, there was a high volume of trash accumulating as well. The student council, led by Lauren Roberts and Frank Martin, noticed that a lot of recyclable materials were ending up in the trash cans conveniently located throughout the building rather than in the recycling bins, which were located in only one designated area on each floor.

The 2009-2010 student council took action by placing three labeled paper bags in each of the studios to provide a convenient location for students to recycle. The bags were working as far as getting students to recycle more, however, there was one problem. Once the bags were filled, no one was taking them out to the side of the building to empty the recyclables. The bags became soaked, damaged and eventually an

eye sore, but the student council didn't give up on their mission.

This past year, the 2010-2011 student council found their solution. They came up with a proposal to take this problem to the classroom, eliciting the help from Emily Messa, Assistant Vice President of University Services and the dean of the college, Dean Patricia Oliver. The proposal was a success, and a grant was received to fund the recycling receptacles project in industrial design 3500 taught by assistant professor Adam Wells.

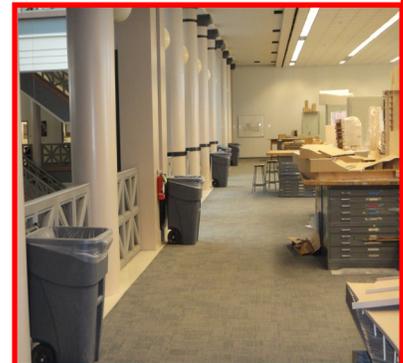
Students in the industrial design course will now work in teams to design a modular system that will allow students in the building to recycle more aluminum, paper and plastic. The team will have to make sure their concept has the data and statistics to prove it is more efficient and be able to hold a volume of recycling for a four-week period. The modular system also must be able to fit into a three-square-foot box and withstand liquids.

"This project will help encourage the student to learn about material properties, as well as manufacturing processes. This will benefit the Industrial Design students by allowing them to design a simple solution for an actual problem," as stated in the Student Council's proposal.

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Current locations of trash bins in the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture.



Current location of recycling receptacles found in one area on each floor of the building.

The project will last six weeks and consist of three stages: research and conceptual sketches; scale models and full scale mock ups; and final prototype with statistics and production costs. The final prototype will be placed throughout the building and provide a quality and convenient receptacle to encourage recycling.

The current student council representatives expressed their mission and motivation in bringing the new project to their curriculum stating, "The Gerald D. Hines

College of Architecture Student Council is comprised of student representatives committed to the achievement, promotion and facilitation of a collaborative design community; therefore, we believe it is crucial to be a visible student organization in our college. As architects and designers in training, it is our responsibility to promote and be environmentally conscious. We decided to implement our skills, knowledge and resources to address the recycling problem at our college with an interactive and collaborative

project that incorporates student involvement with functionality to create a design solution for the current problem."

For tips on going green and more information on green programs at UH, visit www.uh.edu/green.

-Lindsay Marshall

University Services
Communications Coordinator

ROSES AT GARDEN SHOW SUPPORT FOR CYSTIC FIBROSIS FOUNDATION

April 18, 2011 – It's a beautiful symbol of love and hope for people close to a cause, and now this symbol will grace the UH Campus Community Garden. The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CFF) holds their annual Great Strides walk-a-thon on the UH campus. This year as the walkers go through Cougar Woods, they will see a visual tribute to their cause thanks to a donation by the River Oaks Garden Club on behalf of CFF. The rose is used as a symbol for the foundation's mission to find a cure for a disease affecting many children.

In 1965, a foundation volunteer was making phone calls at her home for donations to the organization while her 4-year-old son listened nearby. As she talked about the foundation and cystic fibrosis, her son listened in. When she got off the phone, he surprised his mother when he said he knew what she was working on.

"You are working for 65 roses," he said.

"65 Roses" is commonly used by young children to describe their disease because it is easier for them to pronounce.

By proudly displaying the roses in the garden, UH has made a visual show of support for the foundation's cause.

"The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation is very excited to be so beautifully represented in Cougar Woods with the roses at the garden, and we are thrilled to be a part of this important initiative," said Sissy Boyd, Executive Director of the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter of the CFF. "We love being on campus for our walk. This year our walkers will enjoy the roses as a lovely reminder of support from both UH and The River Oaks Garden Club."

The River Oaks Garden Club is an organization that makes contributions to the community for conservation, horticulture and civic beautification. They donated the scarlet rose bushes to UH on behalf of CFF that were planted between the flower beds and the sidewalk through Cougar Woods.

The rows of roses will encourage beneficial insects into the garden and also may draw more attention from passers-by who may not have noticed it before.

The Great Strides walk, taking steps to cure Cystic Fibrosis, will be held at 8 a.m. on May 21. For more information on the walk, visit www.cff.org/great_strides.

To volunteer at the Campus Community Garden, visit the [Facebook fan page](#).

-Lindsay Marshall

University Services
Communications Coordinator



Roses in the Campus Community Garden

TACO BELL TO GET NEW ENERGY-EFFICIENT EQUIPMENT

May 10, 2011 – The Taco Bell located in the UC Satellite will join the efforts toward a greener UH this summer when it receives new Grilled-to-Order production equipment.

The equipment is more energy efficient, reducing kwh usage between eight and 10 percent in most locations. It will also save approximately 125 gallons of water per day by using electric heat instead of heated water to warm food.

In addition to energy savings, the equipment will help provide a fresher product to customers and

allow employees to grill tortillas and flatbread to order rather than storing them in a warming case.

The equipment is scheduled to be installed during the two week period prior to the beginning of the fall semester when the Satellite food court is already closed. Students, faculty and staff will be able to enjoy the more sustainable Taco Bell when the Satellite food court re-opens for the fall semester.

For more information about UH Dining Services visit www.uh.edu/dining.

-Amber Arguijo

Marketing Coordinator



New Grilled-to-Order production equipment

SUSTAINABLE SPOTLIGHT

Leslye Dodd



Dodd considers herself a non-traditional student at the Hilton College of Hotel and Restaurant Management. She became involved in the recycling program at UH after participating in a class group project.

“During the summer of 2010, we were assigned a research project concerning the UH Hilton Hotel and its green initiative goals. General managers and maintenance supervisors were interviewed to discover the changes made to reach the goal of reduce, recycle, and reuse,” said Dodd. “At the end of the semester, Professor Jascolt asked if any students were interested in recycling and three of us responded to the call.”

The HRM Green Team started with five student volunteers, including Dodd, who picked up the recycling bins in each classroom, went to monthly green team faculty meetings and visited classrooms to announce their initiatives with Recycleman, Danny Arocha. The persistence of the volunteers made a significant difference in the amount of recyclable products that

were diverted from the landfill. In spring 2011, HRM won the student team category in the on-campus recycling contest by collecting over 7000 pounds of recyclables. The small group of volunteers has grown and will soon become an official organization within HRM that will continue to take on recycling projects.

“{The HRM Green Team exists} because we need to be good stewards of the earth and its resources. It is a small step that requires little effort but has an enormous impact on all of us,” said Dodd. “I encourage all students, faculty and staff to become involved in green initiatives by thoughtfully reducing, recycling, and reusing while on campus. Small persistent steps can lead to a successful journey.”

SUMMER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

CLASP needs volunteers to help maintain the Campus Community Garden over the summer! Come out and spend some time at the Campus Community Garden to learn how to plant, water and harvest vegetation from the garden. CLASP will provide and transport all of the supplies you will need. The times available are flexible to fit your schedule, so come by and get some sun while helping us maintain the garden.

For more information or to volunteer contact uhcampuscommunitygarden@gmail.com

SUBSCRIBE TO GREEN UH



Green UH has a List Serv, so you can stay informed about green initiatives on campus. You will receive the latest articles, reminders of upcoming events, Green UH projects and the monthly sustainability newsletter. It's as easy as 1 2 3 to sign up, just go to www.uh.edu/green/listserv.htm enter your name and email, select subscribe and submit.

Want more information on Green UH?

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