

ESS Newsletter

April, 2024



New Professor Alert: Kevin Geyer!

Kevin Geyer is a native Michigander who loves to hike, fish, and farm. After completing an undergraduate degree in Environmental Biology, he did seasonal work in California, Nevada, and Louisiana and then completed a master's program at Virginia Tech and a post doctorate at the University of New Hampshire. Through all of his education, Professor Geyer has done research on how climate change impacts the types and behaviors of microorganisms in soil and how this impacts the ability to grow food and sequester carbon in these soils. He will be teaching *Introduction to Environmental Science*, *Environmental Problem Analysis*, and *Soil to Plate* in the upcoming year. A fun fact about him is that his PhD work was located in McMurdo Dry Valleys of Antarctica, so he got to live there for eight months. He also enjoys fermenting sourdough and kombucha as well as playing pickleball!

New Professor Alert: Claire Griffin!

Claire Griffin started her career with a bachelor's degree in Geography from Clark University and then continued her education at University of Texas at Austin for a PhD in Marine Science. Since then she has been a visiting professor in Minnesota, Virginia, and Oregon. Professor Griffin has researched extensively how freshwater ecosystems respond to changes in their watersheds and the impact those changes might have on elements such as carbon and nitrogen. She's traveled all over to research this- Alaska, Texas, Russia, Minnesota, Canada, and Oregon, just to name a few places! This year she will be teaching some of the ESS core classes and a course called Water and Watersheds. In the future she also hopes to teach classes on climate systems and earth systems science. In her free time, she is a potter, spins yarn, and has recently taken up weaving!



Sampling ponds in Prudhoe Bay, Alaska





Bike Share Art & Smoothies

Anyone walking through the lobby of the Campus Center last week may have noticed an unusual arrangement of bikes and pieces of bikes on display (pictured below). This temporary exhibit was designed and installed by the student organization Allegheny College Bike Share to increase their visibility on campus with the hopes of attracting interest from students and continuing their mission of advocating for sustainable transportation. Bike Share members repair and maintain the bikes available for free to students at the library. The more help the club can get to repair these fleet bikes, the more (and the better condition!) the bikes available at the library will be. The finale of the week's display was free smoothies made using the Smoothie Bike, a pedal-powered blender!

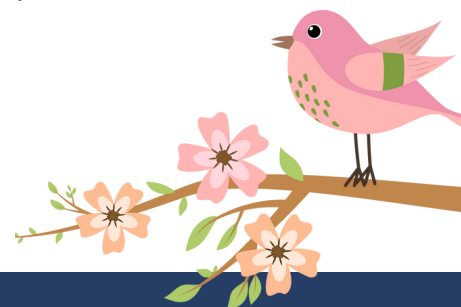
Students interested in Bike Share can email the club at bikeshare@allegheny.edu or stop by the bike shop located through the back/basement door of Green Living house, 296 Loomis. All skill levels are welcome (even if you have no experience)! It's a learning environment for everyone!



Julia Sonen and Liam Shields showing off their outfits in progress!

SEA Trashion Show Workshops

Within the past few weeks, SEA members have been hard at work preparing for the upcoming annual Trashion Show on 4/26, which challenges students to create outfits entirely out of trash! Coming up with an idea and executing it can be difficult though, which is why SEA is holding numerous workshopping events up until the actual show! Currently, there are workshops planned for 4/9 (12-1:30pm) in the CC Lobby, 4/12 (2-5pm) in the Office of Sustainability, 4/18 (7-8pm) in Carr, 4/23 (7-9pm) in Kinz Private Dining, and 4/26 (2-5pm) in the Office of Sustainability. If you have any interest in creating something or just want to see what the process looks like, feel free to stop by! If you have any additional questions, please reach out to sea@allegheny.edu.





ASG Sustainability

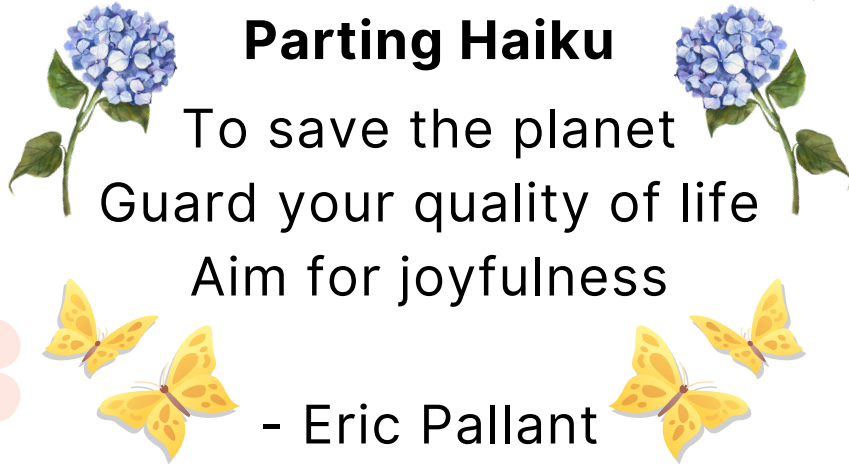
Since early March, Elizabeth Dyer ('25) has taken on the ASG position of Director of Sustainability and Environmental Affairs. Dyer is filling the role for the rest of the semester because she was approached by ASG members and has gotten support from current or previously involved students, such as Bianca Sanchez ('24) and Julia Sonen ('24). Though it was a bit of a learning curve getting used to how ASG works, Dyer believes that this position, and others, can't just be performative; decision makers must listen to and consider the actual needs and contexts. With ASG, Dyer is currently working on helping student organizations incorporate sustainable practices into their normal activities and is planning events for Earth Day/Week. Dyer says she would certainly recommend her ASG position, especially for ESS students, because as she says it's "a good experience for learning about how student government can be involved with sustainability on campus ... and for getting experience with environmental policy work."



Parting Haiku

To save the planet
Guard your quality of life
Aim for joyfulness

- Eric Pallant



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