



2015-2016 Post-Secondary Nominee Presentation Form

ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATIONS

College or University Certifications

The signature of college or university President (or equivalent) on the next page certifies that each of the statements below concerning the institution's eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of their knowledge.

1. The college or university has been evaluated and selected from among institutions within the Nominating Authority's jurisdiction, based on high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
2. The college or university is providing the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (OCR) access to information necessary to investigate a civil rights complaint or to conduct a compliance review.
3. OCR has not issued a violation letter of findings to the college or university concluding that the nominated college or university has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes. A violation letter of findings will not be considered outstanding if OCR has accepted a corrective action plan to remedy the violation.
4. The U.S. Department of Justice does not have a pending suit alleging that the college or university has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes or the Constitution's equal protection clause.
5. There are no findings by Federal Student Aid of violations in respect to the administration of Title IV student aid funds.
6. The college or university is in good standing with its regional or national accreditor.
7. The college or university meets all applicable federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.

U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools 2015-2016

Public 4-Year Public 2-Year Private Non-Profit

Name of President/Chancellor: Dr. John W. Stewart

(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., etc.) (As it should appear in the official records)

Official College or University Name: university of Montevallo

(As it should appear on an award)

College or University Street

Mailing Address: 75 College Drive, Station 6010 Montevallo, AL 35115

(If address is P.O. Box, also include street address.)

County: Shelby IPEDS Number*: 101709

Telephone: 205-665-6010 Fax: n/a

Web site/URL: www.montevallo.edu E-mail: dsmith23@montevallo.edu and kthomas18@montevallo.edu

*Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify that to the best of my knowledge all information is accurate.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Stewart", written over a horizontal line.

Date: January 22, 2016

(President's/Chancellor's Signature)



Nominating Authority's Certifications

The signature by the Nominating Authority on this page certifies that each of the statements below concerning the college or university's eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of the Authority's knowledge.

1. The college or university has been evaluated and selected from among institutions within the Nominating Authority's jurisdiction, based on high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
2. The college or university meets all applicable federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.

Name of Nominating Agency:

Alabama Commission On Higher Education

Name of Nominating Authority:

Dr. Gregory Fitch

(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., Other)

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify to the best of my knowledge that the school meets the provisions above.

Gregory G. Fitch, 24 Jan. 16 Date:
(Nominating Authority's Signature)

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify to the best of my knowledge that the school meets the provisions above.

Thomas Bee Date: *1/25/16*
(Nominating Authority's Signature)

SUMMARY AND DOCUMENTATION OF NOMINEE'S ACHIEVEMENTS

Provide a coherent summary that describes how your college or university is representative of your jurisdiction's highest achieving green school efforts. Summarize your strengths and accomplishments in all three Pillars and their underlying Elements. Then, include concrete examples for work in every Pillar and Element. Only institutions that document progress in every Pillar and Element can be considered for this award.

Summary is located under the contact information on the next page.

SUBMISSION

The nomination package, including the signed certifications and documentation of evaluation in the three Pillars should be converted to a PDF file and emailed to ed.green.ribbon.schools@ed.gov according to the instructions in the Nominee Submission Procedure.

OMB Control Number: 1860-0509

Expiration Date: March 31, 2018

Public Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1860-0509. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 37 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is required to obtain or retain benefit P.L. 107-110, Sec. 501, Innovative Programs and Parental Choice Provisions. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20202-4536 or email ICDocketMgr@ed.gov and reference the OMB Control Number 1860-0509. Note: Please do not return the completed ED-Green Ribbon Schools application to this address.



ED-GRS Application for Colleges and Universities

Contact Information

College/University Name: University of Montevallo
 Street Address: Mailing: Station 6010; Physical: 75 College Drive
 City: Montevallo State: AL Zip: 35040
 Website: www.montevallo.edu Facebook page: http://www.facebook.com/goMontevallo
 President/Chancellor Name: Dr. John W. Stewart, III
 President/Chancellor Email Address: jstewart@montevallo.edu Phone Number: 205-665-6001
 Lead Applicant Name (if different): DeAnna M. Smith, Vice President for Business Affairs and Treasurer
 Lead Applicant Email: dsmith23@montevallo.edu Phone Number: 205-665-6010
Contact person for state and national notification:
 Name: Gary Johnson, Director of University Relations Email: gjohnson5@montevallo.edu
 Phone Number: 205-665-6217

Basic Carnegie Classification	19, Masters	Minority-Serving Institution (check all that apply): AANAPISI _____ ANNH _____ HBCU _____ HSI _____ NASNTI _____ PBI _____ TCU _____
Enrollment Profile	Size and setting Undergraduate Enrollment: <u>2,566</u> Graduate Enrollment: <u>467</u> Percent of Undergraduates Receiving Pell Grants: <u>42.7%</u>	Graduation rate (150% of normal time): <u>44%</u> Average Institutional Net Price: <u>\$16,202</u>

1. Is your college or university participating in a local, state or national program which asks you to benchmark progress in some fashion in any or all of the Pillars?

Yes No Program(s) and level(s) achieved:

2. Has your college or university received any awards for facilities, health or environment?

Yes No

Summary Narrative:

The University of Montevallo has been a leader in higher education in Alabama for environmental stewardship and sustainability. UM was the first university in the state to implement a Green Fund which has contributed to the reduction of UM's ecological footprint. This initiative generates approximately \$30,000 per year, funding campus grants for projects that cut energy costs, decrease our carbon footprint, and reduce waste.

UM has made significant improvement in managing energy use on campus. HVAC renovations in Main Hall now allow UM to regulate temperatures for energy conservation. HVAC upgrades in Brooke Hall, Einstein's Brothers Bagels, and Palmer Hall resulted in electricity, gas and steam savings as well as a reduction in water usage. UM recently replaced windows in major residence halls and other buildings with custom windows which retain historic appearance but reduce energy loss. Solar shades have been installed on the west side of Carmichael Library, reducing heat gain by at least 97%. UM completed numerous roof replacements to meet R30 levels of insulation for energy loss prevention. The bookstore was recently relocated into a renovated historic building outfitted with energy efficient features, including motion activated restroom lighting and an efficient HVAC system.

Energy efficient LED lights have been installed on several campus streets, residence hall common areas, and stairwells where lights operate 24 hours a day. In Harman Hall, UM replaced fluorescent 1900 watt bulbs with energy efficient LED 900 watt bulbs. Energy efficient lighting was also installed in LeBaron Recital Hall, Comer Hall, and in the Mass Communication Department's television studio.

UM has initiated a project to reactivate an old water well for non-potable use. This project will save 1.2-1.5 million gallons of water per month. In addition to usage savings, UM is conscious of preventing plastic waste from water bottles. Water fountains in numerous buildings have been converted to a water fountain and bottle filling station to help eliminate plastic waste and encourage the reuse of bottles.

The University encourages recycling on campus. The University recycles approximately 3,000 pounds of aluminum, 18,000 pounds of plastic, and 65,000 pounds of paper annually. UM also recycles other waste including computers and electronics, metal, glass, batteries, and light bulbs. The "Table to Garden to Table" initiative reduces food waste on the UM campus by composting unused vegetable matter from the Cafeteria to fertilize the UM Organic Community Garden. Gardeners turn the materials, render them usable, and fertilize the garden with the compost. This generates 50 gallons a week in composted materials.

The University operates facilities for the health and well-being of the UM community. UM's Student Health Center, staffed with a full time nurse and a licensed Physician's Assistant, provides health services and wellness programs. During the 2014-2015 academic year, 1,953 student contacts were recorded by the Student Health Center. UM's Counseling Center, featuring licensed mental health counselors, provides counseling services as well as education events. During Academic Year 2014-2015, the Counseling Center logged 2,970 student contacts, up 40% from the previous year. This included 1,828 individual counseling sessions.

The Student Activity Center, featuring fitness equipment, an indoor pool, racquetball courts, and fitness classes, is available for all students and employees. In 2015, over 18,000 admittances to the Student Activity Center were logged. UM recently finished building an outdoor track facility which is open to the community when not in use for track events. More than 5,685 visits have been logged there since September 2015. UM recently added wellness and recreation amenities at University Lake, including canoes/kayaks and a 1.3-mile fitness trail with 10 exercise stations. UM and the City partnered in 2011 to create the first city-wide bike sharing program in the State of Alabama.

The UM Organic Community Garden was established as a project of the Environmental Club. The garden is available for both students and community members. Produce grown in the community sections of the garden is donated to Shelby Emergency Assistance (SEA) to be given to local families in need. More than 1,200 pounds of produce was donated to SEA in 2014. Two mason bee hives were installed in 2014 to encourage local pollinators.

Montevallo offers a minor in Environmental Studies (ES) with an option to major through the Interdisciplinary Studies Program. ES incorporates perspectives from the natural and social sciences, the arts and humanities, and business. 610 students have enrolled in ES courses since its establishment.

The James Shepherd Wylie Observatory (JSWO) is the region's premiere, completely accessible telescope. JSWO is a model for sustainability, built on a reclaimed construction landfill, it features a 1.4 kW solar generator and a rainwater collection and purification system with a reverse osmosis filter. UM strived for platinum LEED certification for the entire observing complex. The restroom facilities include self-composting toilets. JSWO hosts programs that celebrate different sustainability initiatives in our community.

Pillar I: Reduced Environmental Impact and Costs

Narrative: University of Montevallo – Pillar I

Cited by Governor Bentley in the July 18, 2013 Press Release entitled "State Agencies Cut Energy Costs by \$3.9 Million in 2012," the University of Montevallo has made an institutional commitment to sustainability through a variety of programs. From a major upgrade to the Central Plant to solar-powered pedestrian crossing signage, the University uses strategies of all magnitudes to positively impact the environment.

Energy Use & Conservation



New Bookstore in Revitalized 1896 Building, Downtown Montevallo

The University utilizes Energy Star for data collection, as well as a sophisticated energy control system provided by our HVAC vendor, Trane. In recent years, the University has made significant improvement in managing energy use on campus. For instance, a \$2 Million project in Main Hall now allows students to adjust the air temperature in their residence hall rooms; however, the monitoring software allows UM to regulate minimum and maximum temperatures for energy conservation. Also, monitoring of the system allows UM Physical Plant Staff to isolate system operational issues and resolve these in a timely manner preventing sustained energy loss. In addition to Main Hall, HVAC upgrades in Brooke Hall, Einstein's Brothers Bagels, and Palmer Hall, have resulted in savings in electricity, gas and steam as well as a reduction in water usage. Each of these upgrades have resulted in indoor air quality improvement for the campus community too.

To prevent energy loss around old windows, the University has bid custom windows which retain the historic appearance and aesthetics but reduce energy loss. Window replacements have been completed in major residence halls including Main Hall, Napier Hall, Brooke Hall as well as other buildings on campus including Farmer Hall. Partial window replacement has been performed in the Library and remaining windows will be replaced when funding is available. Furthermore, UM has completed several roof replacements which meet R30 levels of insulation for energy loss prevention. Roofs have been installed on Wills Hall, Bloch Hall, Brooke Hall, Harmon Hall, Reynolds Hall and the new University of Montevallo Bookstore on Main Street. Rather than building a new facility, the University elected to conserve green space and reduce building supplies by giving new life to a historic building on Main Street in order to relocate the Bookstore. This 1896 property was outfitted with energy efficient features, including motion activated restroom lighting and new energy efficient HVAC systems.

The University of Montevallo Physical Plant offers tips to help the campus community reduce its energy consumption. Furthermore, the campus is utilizing solar power in a variety of ways. Solar power is also used at the Organic Community Garden to power the water pump, and it is currently being installed at the Observatory



Use of Solar Power at
Organic Garden



Solar Powered Code Blue for
Safety at UM Lake

and at the campus Kiln. A solar demonstration project is also underway, as a Green Fund grant recently funded a solar charging station to be installed in a social space outside the Student Union.

Several campus streets and parking lots are now illuminated by energy efficient LED lights. In recent residence hall upgrades, LED lights have been installed in common areas and stairwells where lights operate 24 hours a day. Through a Green Fund grant, energy efficient lighting was installed in Harman Hall in 2014, replacing 33 fluorescent 1900 watt bulbs with 20 LED 900 watt bulbs. Energy efficient lighting was also installed in LeBaron Recital Hall, Comer Hall, and in the Mass Communications Department's television studio, where six 1000W Studio bulbs were replaced with six LED Litepanels with a 40 watt draw. In order to significantly reduce heat gain on the west side of the library, the library used a Green Fund grant to purchase solar shades to reduce the heat gain by at least 97%. Uncontrolled solar heat gain is a major cause of energy consumption for cooling in the hot Alabama summer climate. Heat gain often accounts for 50% of the air-conditioning load in the summertime. Most summer overheating is caused by windows facing the south and west. Another Green Fund project installed three solar powered lampposts around campus. Recently, pedestrian crosswalk signs were placed near a major crossing from Main Campus to the Walking Trails, Baseball Field and University Track. These signs, which flash continuously, are 100% powered by solar energy. A solar-powered Code Blue Emergency light for safety has been installed at the UM Lake.

Water

In 2013, two of the water fountains in the Student Activity Center were converted to a water fountain and water bottle filling station ("Hydration Station") to help eliminate waste from plastic bottles and encourage the use of reusable bottles. A hydration station was also installed in the Student Union. The success of this program led to outfitting all residence halls with Hydration Stations. Additional academic and administrative buildings now feature hydration stations, including the 3D Art Building, Bloch Hall, Student Affairs,

and Davis Hall. Certain Hydration Station models actually count the number of plastic bottles saved by its use. The University utilizes regionally appropriate landscaping for our grounds.

The University of Montevallo has pipe to reactivate an old water well for non-potable water use. The pump is being rebuilt. When complete prior to summer 2016, this project will connect the water well, which has been unused for many years, to our steam plant savings approximately 1.2 – 1.5 million gallons per month. A Phase II project will be considered to carry this water further for irrigating athletic fields. The project is being paid by UM bond proceeds and a small CAWACO grant for water conservation. Currently, the steam plant and irrigation is sourced from City of Montevallo water and is subject to links in our system. As a result, the Physical Plant staff reviews closely all water usage and then trouble shoots problems (i.e. toilet running continuously to an in-ground leak in pipes).

Green Fund – First in the State of Alabama

The University of Montevallo was the first University in the state to implement a Green Fund, which has contributed to the reduction of UM's ecological footprint. The Green Fund was created in 2010, when the UM Environmental Club gained support from the Student Government Association and more than 45% of the

student body to levy a \$5 per semester student fee increase to be placed into the Green Fund. This Fund generates approximately \$30,000 per year, which is dedicated solely to increasing campus and community sustainability. Any student, staff, or faculty member can submit a grant proposal for a project that might cut energy costs, decrease our carbon footprint, reduce waste, or improve sustainability in any way imaginable. Sustainability projects have been implemented to reduced emissions, waste, or energy use.

Waste

The “Table to Garden to Table” initiative reduces food waste on the UM campus by composting unused vegetable matter from the Cafeteria to fertilize the UM Organic Community Garden. At the Cafeteria, pre-consumer vegetable waste is separated from food going into the landfill, placed in “Compost Only” garbage cans by the Chartwell’s staff, and shipped to the garden as part of the Physical Plant’s recycling initiative. UM gardeners turn the materials, render it usable, and fertilize the campus garden with the compost. This generates 50 gallons a week in composted materials. A composting initiative has also been initiated at the UM Child Study Center, which not only diverts food waste, but teaches preschoolers and pre-service teachers the importance of composting.

Ever since the University partnered with the City of Montevallo to open a recycling center in 2010, both entities have encouraged recycling on campus. Carmichael Library replaced their storage containers for print magazines and journals with biodegradable versions and installed indoor recycling receptacles to encourage recycling in 2014. In 2013, the physical plant purchased Triple Recycling Receptacles for placement in key locations outside of the dining hall, library, and the student union. The Physical Plant coordinates the recycling efforts of the campus by providing recycling containers and educating the campus on the benefits of recycling. On an average year, the University deposits at the recycling center approximately 3,000 pounds of aluminum, 18,000 pounds of plastic and 65,000 pounds of paper. Other categories of waste are also managed for recycling including: computers and electronics, metal, glass, batteries and light bulbs. In 2012, the Biology, Chemistry, and Math Department purchased a scanner using a Green Fund grant to reduce paper waste. Hazardous materials are properly handled as UM outsources disposal of these materials to qualified vendors.



Recycling Center Mural by UM Students and Faculty

Waste reduction has also been integrated with artistic efforts, as students beautified the recycling center with a recycling-themed mural as part of a summer art class in 2012. With a small grant from CAWACO, a second mural was created by UM students, faculty and youth art campers in downtown with an emphasis on the Community and the Environment. The objectives of the camp included creating a mural to promote the preservation and protection of Montevallo’s natural resources, as well as educating campers to identify natural resources that should be promoted and preserved, and how preservation of these resources can contribute to a higher quality of life for the community. The eco-mural project continued in 2015 with three more mural projects, and the mural camp is on schedule for the summer of 2016.

The University of Montevallo Physical Plant utilizes Green Seal Certified Cleaners. The most common cleaners used are Consume and Clean by Peroxy. The environmental impact is lessened further by using Spartans Clean on the Go system for these products. This system dilutes the concentrated chemicals to a usable but still easily biodegradable disinfecting cleaner.



New Mural in Downtown Montevallo to Promote Preservation of Natural Resources

Transportation

The City and University of Montevallo partnered in 2011 to create the first city-wide bike sharing program in the state of Alabama. The mission of ValloCycle is to promote a healthier lifestyle and a cleaner environment through the utilization of bicycles as an alternative form of transportation. Membership includes unlimited 7-day bicycle rentals and renewals. Annual membership fees amount to \$25 a year for adults and \$10 a year for children under the age of sixteen. Alternately, membership can be gained by committing to 25 volunteer service hours with any city, university, community, religious, or other charitable organization in Montevallo.

This initiative contributes to all three pillars as it combines energy use reduction, healthy lifestyles, and educational opportunities, as an annual “Montevallo-Tour-By-Bike event has been held as part of UM’s fall orientation activities since 2011 to show incoming students the wonderful things that Montevallo has to offer, including green spaces and local hangouts. ValloCycle was recently awarded two Green Fund grants to repair their fleet and to install bike racks to make bicycle commuting and errands more convenient.



Vallocycle: Bike Share Program

A green fund project was also awarded to the ValloCycle program that financed the creation of two sculptural bike racks on campus. Students in a Montevallo class on public art designed and created unique bike racks that not only promote physical activity and environmental responsibility, but also help further beautify the already unique campus. Plans for three more sculptural bike racks are underway. A partnership between CommuteSmart and the Green Fund provided funding for the installation of 11 more bicycle racks around campus and downtown Montevallo.



Example of Campus
Bike Rack Installation

UM also seeks to implement alternative transportation for facilities and security where possible. Alternative transportation at the University of Montevallo currently includes: 3 electric golf carts, 1 electric truck, and 1 electric vehicle utilized by security.

Pillar 2: Improve the health and wellness of students, faculty and staff
University of Montevallo Pillar 2

The University operates various facilities for the health and well-being of the University community. Recently, UM has developed a wellness committee on campus to ensure that all community members are aware of the health/wellness opportunities afforded by UM and

to increase programming in these areas.

Student Health Center

The University operates a Student Health Center on campus, staffed with a full time nurse and the Director of the Health Center, who is a licensed Physician Assistant (PA). Under the medical direction of a local doctor with which UM contracts, the PA may authorize most prescriptions needed by our campus. Students have unlimited access to the services provided by the on-campus health center. Also included with the modest student health fee is a visit to the contracted Doctor in town. During the 2014-2015 academic year, 1,953 student contacts were recorded by the Student Health Center. The Health Center also does a significant amount of education on campus related to health. They also coordinate a flu shot clinic on campus annually for the entire community to receive \$5 flu shots.

University Counseling Center

Students also have unlimited access to the University Counseling Center, where licensed mental health counselors are on staff. The Counseling Center coordinates many education events on campus including suicide preventing events, stress management workshops, and safety education such as SAVE Bystander Intervention Training. The Counseling Center hosts visits from therapeutic animals (Hand-in-Paw) for stress relief during finals. A walking/running group is available to the campus community twice per week. The University is also host to various fitness events, including Olympics Day which features a run, tennis tournament, and golf tournament. Other events include sorority runs (Chi Omega Color Run), Tour de Cure, and Run for Research. During Academic Year 2014-2015, the Counseling Center logged 2,970 student contacts, up 40% from the previous year. Details of the nature of these contacts follows, with prior year comparisons:

- Total number completed individual counseling sessions YTD = 1,828 (2013/2014 = 1,491)
- Total number of completed group counseling sessions YTD = 46 (2013/2014 = 41)
- Total number of case management sessions/contacts YTD = 432 (comparison not available)
- Total number of counseling phone calls or emails YTD = 542 (2013/2014 = 538)
- Total number of other counseling client contacts YTD = 122 (2013/2014 = 51)



Runners on Campus for Olympics Day

Student Activity Center and Other Fitness Facilities

All students, and employees and their dependents over the age of 18 have free access to the Student Activity Center, where state of the art fitness equipment is available. The center also features an indoor pool, with community/family swim days, as well as racquetball courts. Free exercise courses are available to all members and the community may also purchase some classes. These include Yoga, Zumba, Weight Training and

Water Exercise. Personal training is available by appointment at no additional charge. In calendar year 2015, over 18,000 admittances to the Student Activity Center were logged. A Disc-Golf Course is also available on campus, as well as the University 18 hole golf course operated by the City on University land. The University opens the indoor track facility each morning for community use at no charge. Also, the University recently finished building a \$1.4 Million track facility with rubberized track surface which is open to the community when not in use for track events. In the short time since the track opened August 31, 2015, usage was tracked at 5,685 visits.



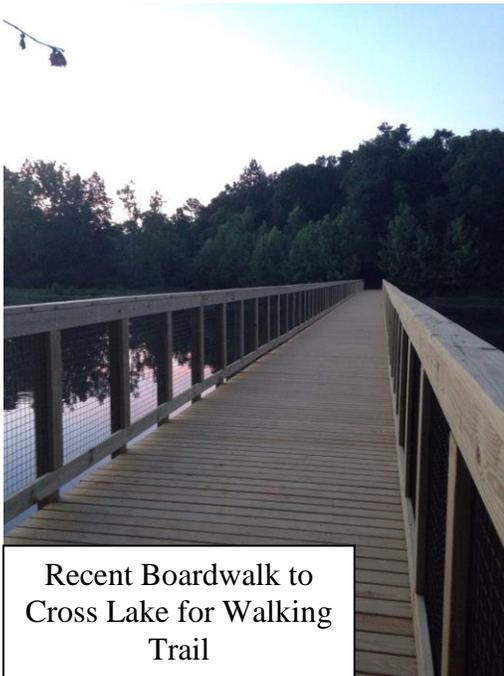
Student Use of Weight Room Facilities

Montevallo has developed several outdoor spaces that contribute to the health and wellness of the campus and wider community. The City and University installed a wooded running/biking trail that extends over four miles from Orr Park (south of campus), along the creek and runs to Stephens Park and University Lake. The University also installed the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama Fitness Trail at University Lake. The 10-station trail is a 1.3 mile spur off the hiking trail. Each station is marked with a suggested exercise to perform at that spot to provide a well-balanced workout. In order to encourage use of these trails, a Green Fund grant supported the marking of a series of mapped out, marked routes throughout the city of Montevallo that are geared towards runners, walkers and bikers. Three map viewing stands were placed in high activity areas at Orr Park, the Student Activity Center, and the University Lake. Each of these viewing stands includes a box for maps so that people can bring a map with them. These maps are also available at key locations in Montevallo, such as the SAC, City Hall, Parnell Library, and others. A new Green Fund project is further supporting the use of these trails by creating a guided trail experience in which walkers can learn about indigenous plant species along the Fitness Trail.



University Fitness Trail

The University collaborates with the City for various outdoor events which encourage fitness. These events include an annual Family Fitness Day, various Art Walks throughout the year, and walking tours of the campus. The University, in partnership with the City of Montevallo, Shelby County, and the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham, expanded walking trails around the lake by adding a beautiful boardwalk. The Lake also features canoes and kayaks that may be checked out by students, faculty and staff.



Recent Boardwalk to
Cross Lake for Walking
Trail



Students Use Canoes and Kayaks on University Lake

The Ebenezer Swamp Ecological Preserve also provides opportunities for recreation, education, and research. The Swamp consists of sixty acres of wooded wetlands and is home to numerous species of fungi, plants, and animals. Ebenezer Swamp is used for teaching and research purposes. Ongoing research projects include water quality testing and surveys of vegetation and macroinvertebrate diversity. The Swamp also features a boardwalk with sitting areas so visitors can enjoy the scenic views and the quiet tranquility of the wetlands ecosystem. Video of the swamp available at <http://www.montevallo.edu/campus-life/campus/ebenezer-swamp/>.

Food Options

The UM Organic Community Garden was established as a project of UM Environmental Club. Open since April 2010, the garden is available for both UM students and other community members to rent plots seasonally. Produce grown in the community sections of the garden is donated to Shelby Emergency Assistance (SEA) to be given to local families in need. Thanks to UM Organic Community Garden, UM Environmental Club, ES 300 Summer Harvest, and community volunteers, over 1200 pounds of produce has been donated to SEA in 2014 alone! The donation project began with a summer course for the University's new environmental studies minor, Environmental Studies 300: Summer Harvest. In the summer of 2015, an "Edible Forest" Garden was installed on the Garden's property, where edible native plants now grow perennially, and informational signs will help visitors and students identify plants they could eat from their own backyards.



The UM Organic Community



Not only does the garden promote sustainability through the production and donation of food, the garden also features sustainable infrastructure. In 2011, a rainwater runoff collection system was installed at the Garden using a Green Fund grant. This allowed Montevallo to expand the garden without contributing negatively to water supply issues felt by downstream users. By installing a system of rain barrels that catches rainwater runoff from both sides of our two sheds, connecting to our present line of rain barrels via an underground hose tunnel, we not only supplement our garden's water supply in a sustainable manner, we also provide an educational experience for our community by hosting seminars about the construction of rain barrels at home. In 2014, two mason bee hives were installed at the Garden to encourage local pollinators.

In addition to the Organic Community Garden, two other garden spaces have been installed in the last year. A new organic garden is currently being developed at the James Shepherd Wylie, and the Child Study Center has installed several raised beds so the children there can learn how to care for plants. Both of these projects were supported by Green Fund grants.

The University's dining vendor, Chartwells, is committed to total health for the UM community. The Falcon Foods dining program is based upon a sustainability commitment and features:

- Cage Free Eggs,
- Antibiotic-free Chicken,
- Milk certified - free of rBGH and rBST,
- "Eat Local" foods,
- Zero trans-fat oils, and
- Fair trade, triple certified organic shade grown coffees.

The Dining Services website (<http://www.dineoncampus.com/montevallo/show.cfm?cmd=balancedUniv>) features Balanced U, an informative site maintained by a licensed dietitian. Nutrition calculators and helpful links are also provided for the community.

Employee Benefits

Having been named a Birmingham Business Journal “Great Place to Work,” the University is very proud to provide 73% of health premiums and 100% of dental premiums for our employees’ Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama benefits. Employees also have access to an Employee Assistance Program, EmployeeConnect. EmployeeConnect offers all benefits eligible employees and their immediate family members professional and confidential counseling designed to help with relationship, financial, and legal issues, as well as, mental health and substance abuse. Extensive mental health services including counseling are available to employees who subscribe to the University’s BCBS group health insurance plan. We also offer a variety of optional insurance products. The most recent addition includes optional Critical Illness insurance, which pays a benefit to employees for having an annual health screening. Wellness Opportunities are published on our website at <http://www.montevallo.edu/campus-life/campus/student-activity-center/classes/>.

Environmental

The University maintains an integrated pest management program with an outside vendor. All pest control services are performed with chemicals that are safe for the public. For example, in an occupied space we do not use poisons such as the glue boards. Mice and critters are removed in a way that does not have breathing concerns. University pest control vendors also ensure that modern code requirements are met for public safety. When fogging or spraying chemicals, we ensure the materials used are safe for occupied spaces when the chemical is dry. The University also follows ADEM’s requirements for safe use and storage. We also follow NFPA regulations for life safety.

All building renovations consider ventilation and air quality. Significant enhancements have been made in the Art Department where ventilation is critical given the materials used in this curriculum. We follow the ASHRAE guidelines. Fresh air in-takes have been upgraded in recent residence hall renovations. Humidity is monitored by the University energy management software. Many buildings are equipped with devices that help dehumidify. These are often installed without a major replacement of the system if needed prior to major renovation. This helps with moisture control and addresses risks associated with asthma. Our certified personnel are trained to identify concerns when they arise. Physical Plant Staff are certified in mold detection and remediation.

Pillar 3: Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education

University of Montevallo Pillar 3

Educational Events

The Green Fund has also provided support for educational initiatives, including seminar speakers, special events, and educational materials. For example, one UM student received a grant to produce a pamphlet promoting awareness about Big Canoe Creek, located in the Birmingham region. The area has come under stress from development, so local residents are attempting to increase awareness about, and thus protection of, the creek and its watershed. The Green Fund also supported a screening of “Eating Alabama” in 2012, which interwove environmental issues with social justice concerns in Alabama. In 2015, the Green Fund supported a public lecture by Artist Pam Longobardi titled, “Plastic and the Anthropocene,” co-sponsored by the Art Department that had over 100 people in attendance. Montevallo has also hosted a screening of the Southern Exposure Film Series for the past several years, and in the past two years we have organized a discussion panel post-screening featuring environmental experts from the region.

In 2011, funded through a collaboration of the UM Green Fund, Concerts and Lectures, College of Fine

Arts, and the Departments of Theatre and Family and Consumer Sciences, students attended an on campus workshop in sustainable and alternative clothing construction techniques given by Natalie Chanin, founder and lead designer of Alabama Chanin. Students made garments from recycled t-shirts using responsibly sourced materials and in the distinctive “reverse embroidery” technique. Ms. Chanin also gave a lecture on the philosophy behind her company as well as labor education and fair pay practices used to sustain a system of local independently contracted artisans to manufacture the company’s products.

UM has also supported faculty opportunities for learning. In May of 2015, Dr. Susan Caplow ran a two-day workshop in which 11 faculty participated in learning about how to incorporate sustainability across the curriculum. The workshop was modeled after the Piedmont/Ponderosa Model of sustainability education. Faculty responded positively to the experience, and another workshop is planned for December 2016.

Observatory

The James Shepherd Wylie Observatory (JWSO) is the region’s premiere, completely accessible telescope. Built on reclaimed land (a former landfill for construction debris), it features a state-of-the-art 20-inch PlaneWave CDK20 telescope on a Chronos HD32 Harmonic Mount. Green Fund Grant money also provided support for a 1.4 kW solar generator, and a rainwater collection and purification system with a reverse osmosis filter. We strived for platinum LEED certification for the entire observing complex. The existing dome and foundation features low-impact construction, solar path lighting, and complete ADA accessibility. The restroom facilities include self-composting toilets. The Student Government Association also supported the purchase of an electric golf cart to be used on the JSWO grounds, further contributing to energy use reduction.



JWSO contributes to environmental education on campus. Two faculty co-teach a 3-credit course, “The Celestial Environment,” using the Observatory, and the UM Astronomy Club meets there on a weekly basis. JWSO has also hosted environmentally-themed events. First, a “Stars Fell on Montevallo” Earthfest in 2012, a student-led promotional event, was sponsored by the UM Green Fund. The Earthfest was a celebration of different sustainability initiatives in our community, and included special guests ValloCycle: the Montevallo Bike Share, the UM Yarn Club, Jones Valley Urban Farm, the UM Student Art Association, and UAB’s Anthropology Club. In addition to featuring free food and live music from local bands, the festival also offered interactive art activities, an educational booth about Mountaintop Removal, and UM Environmental Club’s clothing trade table. JWSO has also hosted a “Sustainability Under the Stars” event, which aimed to educate, encourage, and empower the local community towards a more responsible life of sustainability. Participants learned about the importance of sustainability, sustainability at JWSO, and simple sustainability solutions for the home.

Stewardship Award

Since 2011, UM has given out an Environmental Stewardship Award. This award, created by Environmental Studies Council and the Office of Academic Initiatives, goes to a student who has a minimum 3.0 GPA, has demonstrated through academic coursework high level of potential for environmental stewardship, and demonstrated through service, student organization work, and/or experiential learning the potential to be a future leader in environmental sustainability issues. This award not only honors individual students for their commitment to sustainability, but it also brings attention to sustainability issues on campus and provides an inspirational model for other students to emulate.



Environmental Club Plant Sale at Earth Day

Environmental Club

The student-run UM Environmental Club also spans multiple pillars. They contribute to environmental beautification on a regular basis, conducting litter pick-up events at Ebenezer Swamp and other sites, Privet pulls (a locally invasive species), and organic garden work parties. They also have garden work parties at the Community Organic Garden several times a year. In addition to volunteering in the Garden, which donates fresh produce to SEA, the Club led a donation drive to collect non-perishable donations. The E-Club was able to gather 200 pounds of food to be distributed to families in Shelby County.

The E-Club frequently hosts environmentally-themed events. They host a plant sale every spring so community members can start their own organic gardens. They also host an earth day festival every spring to spread awareness of the Club's goals and celebrate the years' accomplishments. They host speakers once or twice a year so students can meet and hear from experts in fields like nonprofit environmental protection organizations (Black Warrior Riverkeeper and Mountain Justice), sustainable or "green" building, and Alabama Power. The E-Club also holds tabling events in the Cafeteria on how to get more involved with sustainability on campus, whether it be to write a Green Fund proposal, clean up the swamp, or work in the garden. In order to raise awareness about pollution issues in the Birmingham area, the E-Club hosted a showing of "Deadly Deception," a documentary that exposes the coal industry's pollution of the Collegeville community in North Birmingham. Thanks to E-Club's work with the Black Warrior Riverkeeper and the NAACP to protest the proposed Shepherd Bend Mine, the NAACP invited environmental organizations to hold a panel discussion of environmental issues that affect our state. UM provided transportation for UM students to participate in the rally and to support E-Club's representative panelist.

The E-Club offers opportunities for experiential learning. They have gone on a hike with local herbalist to see what edible and medicinal herbs are nearby. They have also coordinated field trips to the solar homes tour, the Wild and Scenic Film Festival, and Rural Studio (a sustainable design initiative through Auburn University). They also attend conferences, including Sprog (a student leadership conference), the Southeastern Student Renewable Energy Conference, Powershift, and the Alabama Water Rally. The E-Club engages in political activism, such as working with the Coalition of Alabama Students for the Environment (CASE) supporting legislation that would protect Alabama's drinking water. They attended the student-initiated CASE lobby day in Montgomery in April 2013, where each attendee had the opportunity to speak to their representatives on why they believe Alabama's waterways should be protected.

Summer Camp

Montevallo has run two grant-funded camps related to sustainability. First, at Earth and Sky Camp in 2009, 20 rising 6th-9th graders in educational activities at three designated university sites: the Community Garden, the James Wylie Shepherd Observatory and the Ebenezer Swamp. The purpose of this camp was to engage campers in activities that would help them understand how to protect and preserve the natural resources in our local area and how that contributes to a higher quality of life for the whole community. The objectives presented were aligned with state and national science and environmental studies standards. Presentations were led by faculty members with expertise in the objective being taught. Following faculty presentations, students participated in activities that developed the objectives. The activities were led by university student counselors and peer counselors. Prior to the students' experiences, they participated in a pre-assessment to gauge their knowledge of ecology, sustainability and astronomy. Reflective journals were evaluated daily as a formative assessment measure that would determine the degree to which the campers mastered the objectives. Upon completion of the camp, campers were assessed to evaluate the gains they made throughout the week. Earth and Sky Camp ran again in 2015 and is scheduled to continue in 2016.

Montevallo also ran a Mural Camp in 2014 sponsored by CAWACO RC&D. Campers participated in field trips led by community leaders each Tuesday-Thursday, including Ebenezer Swamp, Parnell Memorial Garden, Seed to Table Community Garden, JWSO, Blue Heron Edible Forest Garden, the University Organic Community Garden, University Lake, the Recycling Center Mural and Gardens, and Orr Park. In addition to field trips, campers worked with eight Montevallo student mentors to produce a mural in downtown Montevallo which features local biodiversity and a conservation message. Again, this camp continued in 2015 and will be offered again in 2016.

Students' Institute

The UM Office of Service Learning and the David Mathews Center partnered to create Students' Institute. This program provides an opportunity for Montevallo youth to become more civically engaged with their community, and sustainability and environmental resources are a key focus of the program. Through this experience, local elementary, middle and high school students participate in field trips promoting citizenship and developing a community enhancement project that they will implement throughout the school year. Field trip sites have included Ebenezer Swamp, UM campus, City of Montevallo water treatment facility, City of Montevallo Recycling Center, Shoal Creek, Seed-To-Table Community Garden, UM Organic Community Garden, American Village, and other sites.

Environmental Studies Program

Montevallo offers a Minor in Environmental Studies (ES) with an option to major through the Interdisciplinary Studies Program. UM hired the first full-time tenure track position in Environmental Studies in 2014-2015. Dr. Susan Caplow received her Ph.D. in Environment and Ecology from UNC-Chapel Hill, her M.Sc. in Environmental Sciences and Policy from Central European University and her B.A. in Public Policy Analysis/Biology from Pomona College. She teaches courses that explore the interface between humans and the environment, and she incorporates field-based activities and service learning into her courses as much as possible. Thus far, she has taught the introductory environmental studies course as well as courses focusing on environmental sustainability, policy, education and ethics. Caplow's research focuses on how people interact with conservation interventions (including policies, projects, or education) and how those interactions can lead to environmental/social change that supports conservation efforts. She has conducted research in the US, Tanzania, Belize, Sri Lanka, and Hungary. Her most recent research project examines how environmental values, beliefs and norms are communicated in animal-themed education programs in North Carolina. ES prides itself on bringing faculty, students, staff, administrators, and the community together to solve environmental problems and making the UM campus a veritable sustainability lab. Moreover, ES is essential to the UM Strategic Plan in that it creates opportunities for professors in every discipline to work on collaborative

projects and team-teach original classes. The Environmental Studies program at the University of Montevallo fosters leadership in building a sustainable society.

ES at UM is an interdisciplinary minor that incorporates perspectives from the natural and social sciences, the arts and humanities, and business. The purpose of the program is to provide students with the skills, knowledge, and attitudes they will need as citizens and as members of the workforce to make informed decisions with respect to ecological issues. The overarching objective is to help students learn to balance present needs with those of future generations while promoting environmental justice and biological sustainability. After completing the core introductory course in Environmental Studies, students take interdisciplinary electives offered by faculty from all over campus. Elective offerings have included: Environmental Sustainability, Environmental Law & Policy; Environmental Communication; Environmental Sociology; Religion and Ecology; Nonprofit Organizations: Overview, Operations, and Sustainability; The Internal/External Landscape: Psychogeography and the Creative Writer; Geographic Information Systems; Food, Nutrition, Place, and Culture; Animals and Society; Land and Environmental Art; Conservation Biology; and Sustainability Banquet. In addition to these elective options, every semester, at least one co-taught environmental course is offered; past offerings have included Environmental Aesthetics & Ethics, Summer Harvest, National Parks, Landscape Art, & the American Imagination, History of Global Capitalism and the Environment, Economics of Environmental Toxicology, The Celestial Environment, National Parks: Wilderness, Conservation & Public Lands in the American Experience, and Travel Writing: Conservation, Colonialism, & the (Eco)Tourist. All of the ES electives are cross-listed to at least one other department, reinforcing the interdisciplinarity of the program.

Between summer 2010 and fall 2014, 610 students have enrolled in UM Environmental Studies courses, and 14 have completed the minor. The curriculum reaches not just those with a targeted interest in environmental issues, but a whole range of students interested in learning more about sustainability at UM and beyond.

The Environmental Studies Minor requires an independent study project that is both interdisciplinary and relevant to the campus or local community. Past projects have included an economic valuation of the ecological services produced by Ebenezer Swamp Ecological Preserve, a sustainable indigenous plant community design for Harman Hall's atrium space, a grant application for aesthetic improvements to the City's Recycling Center, a study of the environmental effects of Shelby Medical Center's housekeeping chemicals and detergents, the design of a native plant labyrinth in the Organic Community Garden, and an analysis of the effects of bike/pedestrian trails on communities.

The Environmental Studies Academic Program is poised to grow with the recent addition of the first dedicated faculty line in Environmental Studies. This new faculty member has been redesigning the minor to focus on her new core courses, including a newly expanded introductory course (Environment and Society), plus a mid-level course in sustainability as well as a new capstone course in which students will work in teams with a local client to address a real-life sustainability challenge; the first project will work with the City of Montevallo on the bank erosion problems in Orr Park, and it will be launched in the Spring of 2016. In addition to new courses, a proposal for an academic major in Environmental Studies has been approved by the UM Board of Trustees and is currently under review by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE). If approved at the March meeting of ACHE, the ES major will become available in the fall of 2016. The new program design emphasizes experiential and service learning. Dr. Caplow is leading a service learning/ecotourism spring break trip in 2016 to Belize, and Dr. Scott Turner is leading a trip to the Great Smokey Mountains National Park as part of the ES Course, "National Parks and Public Lands." In the future, more of these opportunities will be offered through ES and other partners.