



ON CAMPUS

FEATURED STORIES

- EcoPledge Collects Dining Plates
- The Buzz on Fulton's Beehive
- CJBC To Host "Teach Back" on Divestment Movement
- Scientific Advances Made in Ocean Cleanup Efforts
- Environmentalist Spotlight: Joni Cheung Warns Students of Chemicals in Hygiene Products

OUR TEAM

This newsletter is a monthly publication by EcoPledge of Boston College.

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Eagle graphic courtesy of Zoe Fanning, MCAS '20

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EcoPledge Retrieves Hundreds of Plates for BC Dining

On Saturday, March 25, 11 members of EcoPledge knocked on hundreds of doors at Vanderslice Hall, Walsh Hall, Gabelli Hall, the Mods, and other dormitories on campus to retrieve plates that have been taken from Corcoran Commons over the course of the year. The group was able to collect 288 plates, 92 bowls, and 42 utensils.



Using reusable plates is more environmentally-friendly because when the plates are placed on the conveyor belt in Lower, the waste is sorted into compost, recyclables, and trash. If students use disposable containers, they throw out their entire meals in the trash bin, and dining becomes less sustainable.

With BC Dining reporting 2,000 stolen plates and bowls, EcoPledge was able to obtain about 20 percent of what was missing from the dining hall. What was most notable about the process was how receptive students were to the idea.

"We were happily surprised with the students' reactions," said EcoPledge presi-

dent Bronte Kass. "It was encouraging how willingly people returned the plates. We were happy with how many students thanked us, saying things like, 'It's great work you guys are doing,' and sharing their appreciation for sustainability."

288 Plates
92 Bowls
42 Utensils

EVENTS THIS MONTH

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| April 6th | Professor Carol Newsom will give a presentation titled "Climate Change as a Consequence of Human Presence: Dialogue Between Anthropology and Biblical Studies," in the Heights Room at 5:30 p.m. | April 18th | CAB-EcoPledge Bingo Night, time and place to be determined |
| April 10th | BC Public Health Club end of the year event in Fulton 511 at 7 p.m. which will feature Sachamama, a nonprofit that supports a 100 percent clean energy economy and sustainable lifestyles. | April 19th | Art Fair on O'Neill Plaza, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. |
| | | April 20th | Seth Siegel, a businessman, activist, and writer, will discuss his book <i>Let There Be Water</i> at 4 p.m. |
| | | April 21st | Earth Day Fair on Stokes Lawn, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. |
| | | | Cultural Night Market and Open Mic Night on O'Neill Plaza, 6-8 p.m. |

Here's The Buzz: Bees to Leave the Hive on Fulton's Roof

Bees on Campus ... Some students might not be aware, but Boston College has housed bees on the roof of Fulton since July of 2016, when donors Fred and Donna Seigel contributed a hive to the school. The urban hive was installed by Best Bees, a beekeeping company headquartered in Boston. The hive project was successful in the fall, and now that spring has come, the bees will be concluding their hibernation and venturing out of the hive once again.

Why Bees? ... Bees made news recently when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service added the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee to its list of endangered species, indicating the problem of declining bee populations na-



Photo Courtesy of the Office of University Advancement

tionwide. Bees are chief pollinators in many ecosystems, and a lack of bees could seriously affect millions of flowering plants, including crops like apples, carrots, and tomatoes. Therefore, it's imperative that safe hives be maintained throughout the country to bolster bee populations.

Are Urban Hives Effective? ... One might think that an urban bee population wouldn't get along well in the concrete jungle. On the contrary, however, many studies show that urban hives are fruitful. In fact, urban hives have been a success in environments that are much more urban than Chestnut Hill, such as Los Angeles and Manhattan. The reality is that urban beehives thrive because they have no exposure to agricultural pesticides. When given free range, urban bees can get all the nectar they need from city gardens or local parks.

What's next for the BC Bees ... If the spring colony is successful, students should see the Fulton bees around campus in April and May. They'll be hard at work building their store of honey and growing their colony. Be sure to check for the bees this spring, and remember the proper etiquette: they won't sting unless they're bothered.

CJBC To Educate Profs. on Divestment at "Teach Back"

Flipping the Script ... On April 11 in McGuinn 521, Climate Justice at Boston College (CJBC) will host a "teach back" event. At the event, members of the group will teach BC professors about CJBC's push to have the University divest all money from fossil fuels, an effort that has been underway for several years. The group has invited professors from all departments to this event. "The goal of this event is to get faculty more concerned about climate change, to get them involved in climate action, like the fossil fuel divestment movement, and to get them to think that it's worth pursuing at BC," said Michelle Kang, a member of CJBC and MCAS '18.

The Message ... CJBC is promoting a message of hope and activism at the event. Kang said she doesn't want the teach back to devolve into a discussion about how

"nothing gets done at BC." CJBC understands that movements for change are hard work and slow progress, but uniting the faculty to learn about divestment is a positive step toward progress. "Climate change is so thoroughly an interdisciplinary issue—it deals with everything from economics to ethics, science to politics, and everything in between," Kang said.

Uniting Voices ... "Having a solid team of passionate students and holding regular planning meetings with professors has been especially beneficial because it's so affirming—every time someone offers an idea, it fires everyone else up, and the diversity of voices and opinions is magnified," Kang said. "We hope that uniting faculty voices with student voices will be crucial in our progress." CJBC will also hold a climate rally with Martin O'Malley on Tuesday.

'Check Yourself Before You Wreck Yourself'

Joni Cheung Educates Students About Harmful Chemicals in Personal Hygiene Products

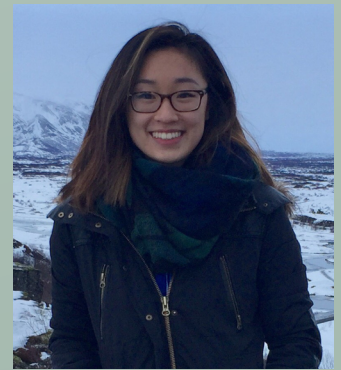


Photo Courtesy of Joni Cheung

Joni Cheung, MCAS '17, has had an active four years at Boston College. She's been a member of the BC marching band, the pep band, and Full Swing. Joni has attended many sports games as a member of the band, including the game in which BC won a major victory over the University of Southern California in 2014. She also danced on the Full Swing team at ALC Showdown in March. On top of her extensive extracurricular work, Joni is a biology major on a pre-dental track, and she's already lined up her post-graduate plans. In June she will begin work at Beth Israel Medical Center as a research assistant in the neurology department.

Despite a very busy schedule, Joni has found time to stand for sustainability on campus. As a sophomore, Joni lived on the sustainability floor in Edmonds Hall, where she and her floormates participated in weekly seminars on environmental issues such as waste management and sustainable measures. At the end of the year, the sustainability residents were asked to create a project focused on campus sustainability. That's when Joni got the idea for her sticker campaign.

Joni's campaign is designed to draw attention to the harmful chemicals in personal hygiene products like shampoo and deodorant. Her colorful sticker is emblazoned with the phrase "Check

OFF CAMPUS

Two New Devices Look Promising for Ocean Cleanup Effort

The Plastic and Petroleum Problem ... Scientists estimate there are currently over 150 million tons of trash in the ocean. In 34 years, plastic trash in the ocean will outweigh all the fish in the sea. Oil spills like the Deepwater Horizon incident have plagued the oceans in the past—cleanup efforts for oil spills have been a long, costly, and sometimes ineffective process. Recently, two new devices have been created to solve the ocean cleanup problem.

The Super Sponge ... The first device is the Oleo Sponge created by the Argonne National Laboratory, a nonprofit research laboratory operated by the University of Chicago for the Department of Energy. The sponge is made of a polyurethane foam, a foam often used in mattresses. The foam's surfaces are covered with oleophilic (oil-attracted) molecules that draw oil from the water. The sponge can even be wrung

out and used again to catch more oil. In addition, the oil wrung out from the sponge can also be reused. Simulations of the sponge dealing with both crude and processed oil have proven to be extremely promising in cleaning up oil spills.

Plastic's Worst Nightmare ... Another new invention that received funding last year is a large-scale plastic cleanup barrier that can be deployed in areas where plastic waste threatens the ocean environment. Tests of the technology are set to begin for 21-year-old Boyan Slat's plastic-catching invention. For the past three years, Slat has been working on his massive barrier that would remove trash in the ocean. If his upcoming tests are successful, the device could remove almost half of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch—or 154 million pounds of trash, according to the organization's estimates—in just 10 years.

FROM THE OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

Visit us online at bc.edu/offices/sustainability

BC Launches New, Online Sustainability Certificate

The Woods College of Advancing Studies is now enrolling for a new, fully online, Professional Studies Certificate in [Sustainability](#).

The six course certificate is designed to help students address and answer the pressing questions of the day including climate change and effects of population and shifting demographics. Courses include Sustainability Science, Urban Ecology: Environmental History of Boston, and Natural Disasters.

Sustainability is a growing, in-demand field. Positions in the field include environmental consultant, director of sustainability, parks & recreation specialist, and communications director. Salaries of professions in sustainability range from \$55k to \$95k, according to glassdoor.com.

Become a Green Office!

The Green Office Certificate Program is designed to recognize individuals or office groups who engage in sustainable practices on campus. To become green certified, fill out the Green Office Certification using [this Google form](#). You will be graded on your achievements in six categories, including energy, recycling, printing and office supplies, and transportation. Offices or individuals who achieve certification will receive a certificate and an LED office desk lamp.

Spotlight continued...

Yourself Before You Wreck Yourself" and features a scannable QR code that links to a webpage containing information on safe products to use. Joni created the page in collaboration with the Office of Sustainability this fall.

"This is an interesting take on sustainability because people use so many products all the time—covering the whole spectrum from deodorant, to lotion, to shampoo—and it's something that we voluntarily put on ourselves," she said. "And of all the things we can take control of, I think this is a really important one. Especially because it not only affects yourself, but also future generations ... because a lot of products affect your reproductive system."

Joni's sticker campaign embodies what she calls a "holistic approach" to personal health and sustainability. Not often do we think about what potentially harmful effects hygiene products can have on our bodies, let alone the effects those products might have when they go down the drain and enter the environment. Joni's goal is to start at the top of the chain and get people thinking about what's happening in their environment that affects them.

Joni's sticker can be seen around campus on various notice boards, and she encourages anyone with interest to scan the QR code to access the webpage. Joni hopes that her campaign will help to raise awareness about the correlation between personal care products, personal health, and sustainability.

CONSCIOUS CONSUMER TIP

This year, EcoPledge is teaching members of the BC community how to be conscious consumers. Here is a tip to help you become a more educated consumer:

Buy second hand!

Many consumer products have short life cycles because consumers prefer to buy new rather than used. Instead of buying new, you could look to buy products like clothing and appliances second hand. You'll save money, and you'll be helping to reduce waste in the consumer industry.