

Fall 2022

Sustainability Spotlight

University of Dayton. Hanley Sustainability Institute

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Don Pair returns to Hanley Sustainability Institute as executive director

The University of Dayton appointed Don Pair as executive director of the Hanley Sustainability Institute.

"One of the highlights of my time at UD has been to help stand up HSI. I believe our sustainability work by the faculty, staff, students and community partners makes an impact on local and global sustainability issues" said Pair, who led the institute as acting head for four years after it was established in 2014 through a \$12.5 million gift from the George P. Hanley Foundation.

In this new role, Pair will work with the sustainability program director and the director of the sustainability graduate certificate, among others, to deepen partnerships and further integrate sustainability into the curriculum. He also will work with UD facilities management on campus sustainability planning and focus on building relationships for additional philanthropic support for the institute's student-centered programs and initiatives.

"This leadership opportunity differs from my previous role in standing up the institute", Pair said. "Today, I am drawn back to the institute because of its strong, established [strategic plan](#) that has faculty, staff and students engaged on campus and in the community."

Pair joined the University in 1991 and was a member of the geology faculty for 16 years, including five as department chair. He has worked in the College of Arts and Sciences dean's office the past 14 years as associate dean for integrated learning and curriculum, interim executive director of the Fitz Center for Leadership in Community, and associate dean for interdisciplinary research and experiential initiatives, in addition to his previous stint at the institute.

"Don did a great job of getting the Hanley Sustainability Institute up and running and inaugural executive director Ben McCall did an excellent job of building the

institute into the success it is today" said Danielle Poe, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "I expect Don's experience, which has touched many corners of this campus, will maintain the institute's momentum."

This is **SUSTAINABILITY SPOTLIGHT**. We highlight news related to the Hanley Sustainability Institute, the Sustainability Program, and sustainability on the University of Dayton campus. This newsletter is usually published electronically once a month.



Sarah Richard returns to UD as Hanley Sustainability Institute Student Engagement Coordinator

The Hanley Sustainability Institute (HSI) welcomed University of Dayton alum Sarah Richard (2019) back to campus this past summer to fill the role of student engagement coordinator.

"Growing up in Pittsburgh, Pa., and transplanting to Dayton, Ohio, I am interested in the unique challenges Midwest communities face and the creative solutions to achieve a just transition to a climate-conscious community," said Richard, who graduated with a B.S. in mechanical engineering and a minor in Sustainability, Energy and the Environment. "My areas of interest lie in the cross-sections of technical skills and social systems, believing every sector and profession plays a role in tackling the environmental and social implications of Climate Change."

Richard's focus with the Hanley Sustainability Institute will be engaging and mentoring students as they explore their role among these challenges, as well as supporting mutually beneficial partnerships beyond campus.

"I am ecstatic to be back at the University of Dayton," Richard said. "While I have a mechanical engineering degree, my unique UD education paired with programming and mentorships allowed me to transfer my technical skills to impact social movements and systems.

"UD not only gave me concrete skills to take into my professional life but grounded me in how I wished to use them. This is something I really hope to drive home with students."

Richard hopes to empower students to make a change on campus sustainability efforts, drawing the connection that the university is part of a larger ecosystem. By growing existing programming through a formal community mentorship initiative and micro-internships, she believes students who engage with HSI will be equipped to tackle some of the most significant challenges facing our local and global communities.

After graduating from UD, Richard remained in Dayton, engaging heavily in local and regional environmental justice efforts, including working with the local non-profit Dayton Energy Collaborative (DEC) to explore future development at the neighborhood level through the lens of equity, resilience and climate protection. She is currently on the DEC board, which helps to advise the future of the Dayton residential energy burden program. Additionally, she joined the initial staff of the community and worker-owned co-op grocery Gem City Market which works to combat food apartheid in West Dayton through developing and sustaining a just food economy. Richard also sits on the City of Dayton Environmental Advisory Board, tasked with counseling and reviewing environmental matters concerning the city.

SURF funds interdisciplinary studies and scholarship

A gift from University of Dayton graduate John Alberici led to the creation of the Sustainability Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) program. Alberici, a 1967 graduate, served in the U.S. Army before joining his family's construction company in St. Louis, Mo. He is now the chairman emeritus of Alberici Corporation and Flintco, LLC.

The fellowship advances two of the Hanley Sustainability Institute's priorities, enhancing undergrad experiences in sustainability and catalyzing transdisciplinary research and scholarship.

Through a competitive review process, HSI selected a cohort of outstanding undergraduate students to work on transdisciplinary research projects in sustainability. Each student will spend a full academic year (including summer) working on a project guided by one or more faculty members. Students receive a stipend for their summer work and an allowance to offset research expenses. The student – faculty mentor pairings and research projects for this first year of the program are student – faculty mentor pairings and research projects for this first year of the program are:

- **Darion Smith (SUS) / mentors Zach Piso (PHL) & Bob Brecha (PHY)** - Working with Agraria on a case study of Yellow Springs to see what makes some local sustainability efforts more successful than others
- **Elaina Ismert (CME) / mentors Erick Vasquez (CME) & Judit Beagle (CHM)** -Preparation and performance of bio-based solvents to extract nanomaterials from used fabrics, allowing recycling and the generation of value-added, renewable materials
- **Elisabeth Arnold (GEO) / mentor Shuang-Ye Wu (GEO)** - Changes in global precipitation pattern under a warming climate
- **Jessica Williams (BFA) / mentor Geno Luketic (VAR)** -Tracking resource usage and supply chain impacts for a Ceramics artist
- **Lauren Roy (BIO) / mentor Jennifer Hellman (BIO)** - Linking land use and water quality data with monitoring of darter fish population due to their status as indicator species for ecosystem health to illustrate the connection between human impacts and the health of rivers
- **Matthew Carroll (BIO) / mentor Chelse Prather (BIO)** - Investigating whether litter insect populations can indicate successful prairie restoration



UD Sustainability Program director's research took him to Germany

A University of Dayton researcher helped lead a study published in Nature Communications today showing scenarios by some major oil companies for global reduction in greenhouse gas emissions are incompatible with the Paris Agreement's climate objectives. [FULL STORY HERE.](#)

University of Dayton strengthens practice of ethical purchasing

The Ignatian Solidarity Network details the University of Dayton's relationship with the Catholic Ethical Purchasing Alliance (CEPA) in regard to ethically sourced promotional products and apparel for Catholic campus bookstores. UD has long been dedicated to sustainability and ethically sourced materials, and this news is another step forward. [FULL STORY HERE.](#)

PIVOT conference set for September at Sinclair Community College

University of Dayton Sustainability Program Director Bob Brecha will be among the list of featured speakers at the third annual PIVOT conference from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday Sept. 14 at the [Sinclair Community College Conference Center](#).

If you're interested in attending, [go to this link](#). Tickets for the event run between \$60-75. Interested parties may register for the event for free by entering the promo code **GUEST2022**.

The theme for this year's conference is a "Pathway to Decarbonization." The conference is an opportunity to join like-minded professionals committed to environmental sustainability from all walks of life.

Registration opens at 8 a.m., and will be followed by a kickoff breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Sessions include "Opportunities and Challenges for the Worldwide Sustainable Energy Transition," "Role of Land and Buildings on Carbon Emissions," "Energy Efficiency and Healthcare Performance" and "Strategies

for Corporate Decarbonization,” among others. The keynote luncheon will address anticipating the future and driving change. A networking reception will close the conference at 3 p.m.

Additional information on the agenda [can be found on the conference website](#).

Besides Brecha, additional speakers for the event include Montgomery County Commissioners Judy Dodge and Debbie Lieberman, Steve Patterson, the Mayor of the City of Athens, Ohio, and Michael Gulich, the Senior Director of Campus Planning, Architecture and Sustainability at Purdue University.

Also, over 20 exhibitors, including Eaton, Johnson Controls and CenterPoint Energy, will be represented at the event.



Global Conference on Sustainability in Higher Education streaming over three dates

The Global Conference on Sustainability in Higher Education (GCSHE) will stream live over three days – Oct. 18 and 26 and Nov. 3 - With a theme of “The Urgency of Now.” All three days will feature sessions between 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Hosted by The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), the virtual conference will offer three full days of live content and networking, plus 80 days of on-demand access (through Dec. 31). More information, including presentations, speakers and networking opportunities [can be found on the conference website](#).

This year’s conference objectives include:

- How can higher education leaders inspire a greater sense of urgency to tackle climate change at their institutions?
- How do higher education sustainability leaders shift focus from incremental improvement to organizational transformation?
- How can higher education institutions partner with their communities to prepare for and respond to the consequences of climate change?
- How can higher education prepare students to effectively shape and contribute to efforts to address the climate crisis?

University of Dayton faculty and staff have the opportunity to register for free [at this link](#) by using a university email address to sign up. Other email addresses will not work for free registration. Prior to finishing your registration, enter the promo code **UNIDAY020822** to complete the process.

Registration deadline is Nov. 3, 2022. Registering before this date will give users access to conference content until the end of the year.

The conference is the largest stage to exchange effective models, policies, research, collaborations and transformative actions that advance sustainability

in higher education and surrounding communities. For additional questions about the conference, please [visit the FAQ area on the website](#).

LOOKING TO CONNECT WITH OTHER SUSTAINABILITY-MINDED PROS?

Help build the wider community of professionals working in sustainability or those planning such a career. Consider joining HSI's LinkedIn page to keep up with news, share ideas or make that next contact for a project, internship or initiative.

[Request to join](#).

Upcoming events

- **Flyer Farmers Market:** Every Tuesday 2:00 pm-5:00 pm, KU Fountain
 - **Agraria Farm Forage Walk:** September 7, 5:30 pm-7:00 pm, Agraria Farm, 131 E Dayton-Yellow Springs, Rd. Yellow Springs, OH 45387. Meet in front of the barn promptly at 5:30pm. **Fee:** \$5/person, free for children under 5. [Register here](#).
 - **PIVOT Conference:** September 14. If you're interested in attending, [go to this link](#).
 - **Green Drinks Dayton:** September 21, 5:00 pm-6:00 pm, Flanagan's Pub, [website](#).
 - **AASHE Global Conference on Sustainability in Higher Education:** October 18, October 26 and November 3. Register for free [at this link](#).
 - **Tell us about your event:** If you have a sustainability-related event, please email details to hsi@udayton.edu.
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Sustainability Program

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