Resilience & the Sustainable Future
A True Story of the Astonishing and Amazing Power of Students to Change a University and, Quite Possibly, the World

Resilience Studies Consortium Faculty Retreat
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Resilience at RU

Resilience at Roosevelt means the capacity to adapt to and thrive within a challenging physical/fiscal/educational environment of stress and change, while advancing the 3 Es of sustainability in the classroom, on campus, and in the urban and suburban communities of Chicagoland.
Resilience at Different Scales

Classroom / curriculum
Campus as laboratory
Neighborhoods / communities
Urban ecosystems

SUST 250 students explore the restored prairie at Canal Origins Park in Chicago, 19 April 2017 (photo: M. Bryson)
Sustainability at Roosevelt
In Full Gear Since 2010

**Sustainable Buildings & Operations**
- Wabash Building (LEED Gold)
- Goodman Center (LEED Silver)
- AUD retrofits
- Schaumburg Campus Redevelopment

**Academic Innovation**
- Sustainability Studies undergrad program est. Fall 2010 (1st in Chicago region)
- SUST Student Symposium (biannual)
- Environmental Science Minor
- Civic Engagement through STEM
- Service Learning & Internships
- Strategic Sustainability Plan 2015-20

**Student Organizations & Activism**
- RU Green (environmental advocacy)
- Net Impact (business and sustainability)
- RU Reforesting (conservation biology)
- RUrbanPioneers (Schaumburg garden)
- RISE (student activism & social justice)
Sustainability at Roosevelt

Faces and Places

Sustainability Studies

Science & Math

Bennett Institute of Real Estate

Hospitality & Tourism Management

Environmental Science

Mansfield Institute for Social Justice
Chicago: An Urban Laboratory for Sustainability, Science, & Service

SUST 350 Service & Sustainability, Fall 2014
Planting trees at Eden Place Nature Center in Chicago's Fuller Park neighborhood
Cities as Human Ecosystems

Chicago in 1857 (source: Chicago History Museum)
Understanding the river as a modified natural ecosystem (natural sciences)
Developing conservation policies (social and natural sciences)
Representing the river as a cultural resource (arts and humanities)
Restoring the river: water quality, biodiversity, riparian zone integrity, citizen access and recreation (all disciplines)

Sense of Place | Urban Sustainability
Assessing Water Quality (Chemistry)

- Temperature
- pH
- Turbidity
- Dissolved oxygen (DO)
- Nutrients (nitrate, phosphate)
- Bacterial indicators (coliform)
- Metals and organic contaminants (lead, copper, benzene, PCBs, hexavalent chromium)
- Emerging contaminants (pharmaceuticals, synthetic hormones, flame retardants)
Assessing Water Quality (Biology)

Sampling macro-invertebrate benthos in the North Branch, May 2010 (M. Bryson)
RU canoe trips on the Chicago River, 2009- (M. Bryson)
Science: Research at the Field Museum

SUST major Kristina Lugo (BPS '16) and alum Colleen Dennis (BA '15) interned at the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago IL; SUST 330 Biodiversity taught onsite at museum by Prof. Julian Kerbis Peterhans (aka "Illinois Jones")
Recycling: Conducting Campus Waste Audits

SUST 240 Waste students conduct a waste audit of WB and AUD, Fall 2014 (M. Bryson)
Composting: Putting Food "Waste" to Work

If you think you are too small to be effective, you have never been in bed with a mosquito

SUST 250 Sustainable University students conduct Compost Pilot Project in Spring 2017 to reduce food waste on RU's Chicago Campus
(poster design by R. Avidi and E. Vuillemot; photo by E. Vuillemot)
Food: Tending an Urban Farm

SUST students working at the Chicago Lights Urban Farm, 2013 (M. Bryson)
People: Fighting for Environmental Justice

Chicago EJ Advocates: Kim Wasserman of LVEJO, 2014 (left); Hazel Johnson of People for Community Recovery, 1989 (photos: LVEJO, PCR)
Sustainability Internships, Fellowships, & Travel

SUST students have blogged about internships, fellowships, and study abroad experiences at (clockwise from upper left) Southern IL Univ, the Field Museum, Uncommon Ground (Chicago), Iceland, Appalachia, the Center for Neighborhood Technology, Growing Power, and more.
Students Are Driving Us Forward

On the Campus:

- Environmental literacy
- Sustainability education
- Research symposia
- Student and staff engagement
- New student orientation
- Green living & learning communities (new for F17!)
- Waste reduction & recycling
- Energy conservation
- GHG mitigation

SUST 250 students perform waste audit, Spring 2017
(photo: M. Bryson)
Students Are Driving Us Forward

In the Community:

- Sustainable development research & activism
- Open space conservation & environmental restoration
- Soil / air / water quality analysis
- Environmental justice advocacy
- Community sustainability asset mapping

Workday at Eden Place Nature Center, Nov. 2014 (C. Dennis)
RU students were instrumental in these watershed accomplishments:

- [Strategic Sustainability Plan](#), adopted Spring 2015;
- [STARS Assessment Report](#), submitted Fall 2015
Everybody Can Ride this Bus!

Emily (Lisle, IL), Arlene (S. Side Chicago), George (Sussex, England), and Jesse (Cleveland, OH) at Eden Place Nature Center, Nov. 2014 (photo: M. Bryson)
Sustainability Studies @ RU
Blog (e-subscribe!) for news, critical analysis, and student writing

RU Green Campus
All things sustainable at Roosevelt

Schaumburg’s Sustainable Future
Student website/blog (e-subscribe!) featuring suburban ecosystems & environmental justice

SUST on Twitter & Facebook
(news, events, people, stories)

Prof. Bryson’s Faculty Website/Blog
(lots of key resources)

It’s all about the journey . . .

Canoeing the North Branch of the Chicago River, Fall 2014
(photo: M. Hoffman)